

2003



Over 100 years of service to Utah's sportsmen and citizens

Law Enforcement Section Annual Report



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

***Law Enforcement Annual Report
for 2003***

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Law Enforcement Annual Report for 2003

CHIEF'S REPORT

By Chief Rudy Musclow

With tight budgets 2003 was a challenging year for wildlife law enforcement, the shooting centers and hunter education. Despite unfilled vacancies employees met all challenges and had a good year with lots of great accomplishments.

The law enforcement section continues to receive lots of support from sportsmen throughout Utah. The support officers receive is a testament to the quality and dedication of the men and women in the section.

HONOR GUARD

In 2003 the law enforcement section created an Honor Guard to represent the law enforcement section and division at funerals for slain officers and other occasions as deemed appropriate. The Honor Guard consists of volunteer officers from around the state.

Administrative Sgt Tony Wood spearheaded the design and logistics of putting together the honor guard. Officers involved in the honor guard are:

Sgt. Edward Meyers, Sgt. Tony Wood, Sgt. Scott White, Officers Hal Stout, Ray Loken, Captain Mike Fowlks and myself. The Honor Guard continues to progress and has become a valued addition to the section.



HONOR GUARD

BUDGET

Budgets were extremely tight as a result of a sluggish economy, drought and associated reduced fishing license sales. The law enforcement section pulled together and made it through difficult times with only 41 conservation officers. Nine positions were left unfilled statewide as a result of budgetary constraints.

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment of high caliber new officers may be the greatest challenge facing the law enforcement section. Officer retention and recruitment continues to be a problem facing the law enforcement section, twenty-seven officers are eligible to retire. In 2003, we needed to hire six officers to fill vacancies. Utah's conservation officer job announcement was sent to every state, many universities and left open for 60 days. Despite these efforts only 18 applicants were interviewed from which three officers were hired.

In order to maintain our high standard for hiring the best candidates for positions in wildlife law enforcement we are going to have to place a greater emphasis on recruitment when students enter their freshmen years at college. We may also need to initiate some type of ride-along program to help generate young people's interest in pursuing wildlife law enforcement careers.

WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Utah wildlife officers continue to rise to every challenge. Despite reduced officers in the field and having to assist more with other sections, officers issued more citations, warnings and made more contacts with the public in 2003 than prior years. Contacts with the public increased 34 percent over 2002. Written warnings were also up 65 percent and the number of citations issued increased 8 percent over 2002. Officers were also involved in giving numerous programs to the public and writing articles for newspapers, totaling 5,837 programs or articles. Officers were also asked to work with the courts to ensure restitution payments were made. Once again officers responded and did a great job.

Despite difficult budget times we were able to use restitution money to match funds with each region and purchased 5 four-wheelers, one boat and two snowmobiles. Since 2003, we were also able to equip all officers with first responder first aid kits, digital cameras and voice recorders.

TRAINING

Training continues to be a priority of mine officers were brought together for three days of training at Camp Wapiti for the first time for a fall training session at Camp Williams. Officers



CAMP WILLIAMS FIREARMS TRAINING



ARREST CONTROL TRAINING AT CAMP WILLIAMS

were trained at Camp Williams in three groups. Training was intensive and included emergency vehicle operations and certification, physical fitness and intensive firearms training. Officers finished the night qualification around 11:00 pm and were tested for physical fitness at 6:30 am the following day. Officers were trained and

certified in shotguns, rifles and handguns. Officers also participated in scenarios with simmunition handguns.



FIREARMS SIMMUNITIONS TRAINING

HELP STOP POACHING

The Help Stop Poaching (HSP) program continues to expand. A group of seven dedicated volunteers are doing a great job assisting with answering the hotline, taking information and contacting officers. The number of investigations generated by the HSP program continues to increase. In 2003 the HSP line generated 604 investigations, a 21 percent increase over 2002. Much of this increase can be attributed to the great job the volunteers are doing answering the phone and all the signs that officers and volunteers have placed up around the state.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Utah's hunter education program continues to move forward as one of the best programs in the country. In 2003 Utah began a new internet hunter education course. The internet course fills a need for the working professionals that may have a difficult time attending a traditional hunter education class.

In 2003 Utah also took the lead in providing bowhunter education in Utah. The Hunter Education staff taught and certified bowhunter education instructors all over Utah. Bowhunter education is still voluntary in Utah, however, 56 archery hunters chose to voluntarily take the course in an effort to improve their skills. Participation in the

furharvester education program also increased slightly in 2003. There appears to be an increased interest in trapping as a result of rising fur prices.

SHOOTING CENTERS

In 2003 both shooting centers were taken off federal aid and are now funded entirely by restricted dollars. This change allows the centers increased flexibility in their operations and allows the shooting centers to operate more like a business and better serve Utah's sportsmen and women.

Utah's shooting sports programs are very popular. Use of the two shooting centers Cache Valley and the Lee Kay Center continues to increase each year and both centers look better than they ever have. Staff at both centers has done a great job at continuing to improve the centers in an effort to better meet the needs of Utah's sportsmen. Shooting sports programs continue to develop with programs designed to introduce new people to shooting sports and ultimately for those new shooters to become future hunters.

SUMMARY

The law enforcement section has come out of the tough budget times in great shape. Support from the public and constituency groups is higher than it has been in a long time

Officers today have challenges that officers did not have just ten years ago. Nearly every district now has CWMU's or Commercial Hunting Areas and many special regulation areas. Officers have also been heavily involved in collecting samples to monitor chronic wasting disease.

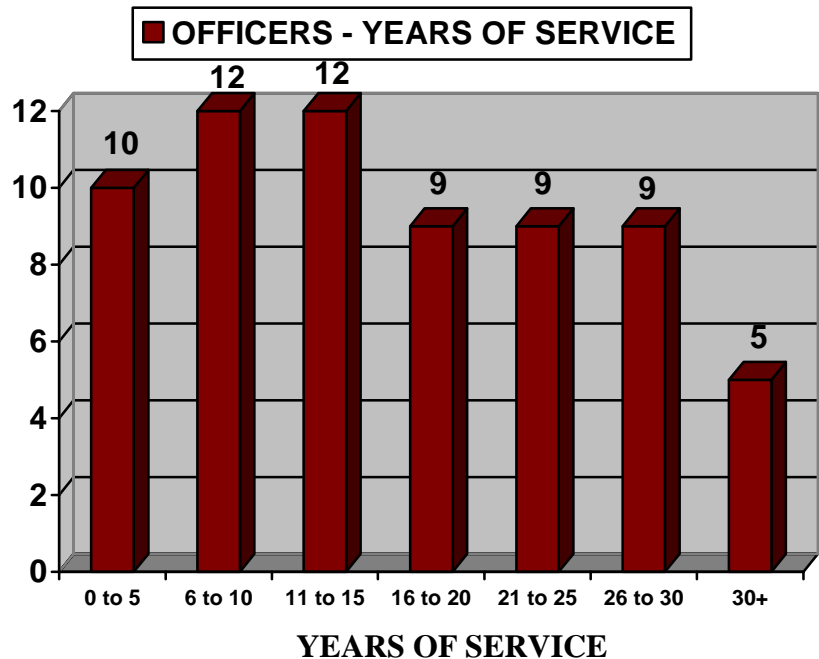
Many officers have had to cover several districts with the numerous vacancies. With new officers waiting to go through POST relief should be on the way. Despite all the vacancies, officers made hundreds of great cases and did whatever they could to help the Division through tough budgetary times and still protect Utah's wildlife.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION STATISTICS

OFFICER COMPLIMENT

Currently the law enforcement section, excluding hunter education, has 41 conservation officers, eight sergeants, five lieutenants, an administrative sergeant, a captain a chief and one secretary. The investigative unit includes four investigators and a coordinator. Vacancies include four investigators, six conservation officer districts and one administrative sergeant. The administrative sergeant position is temporarily filled as a career mobility position shared by two officers.

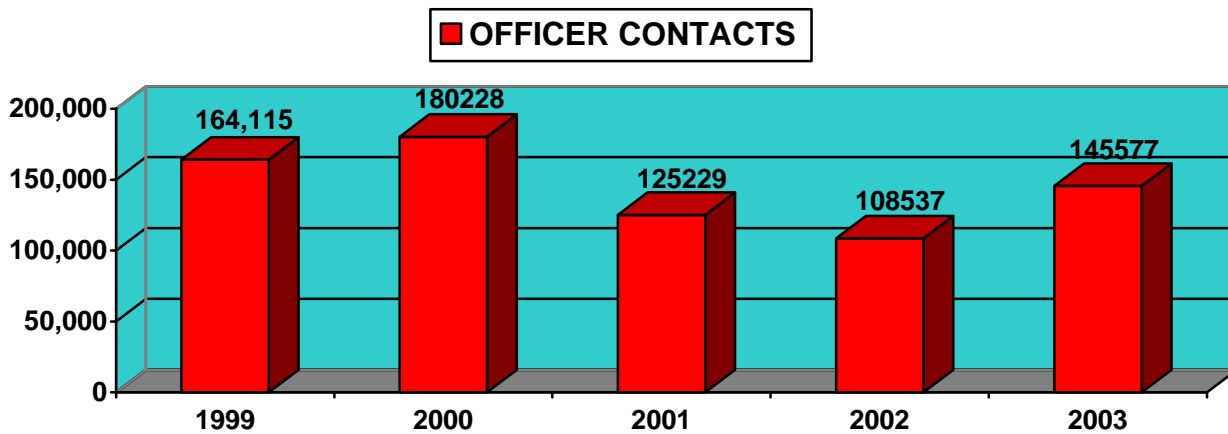
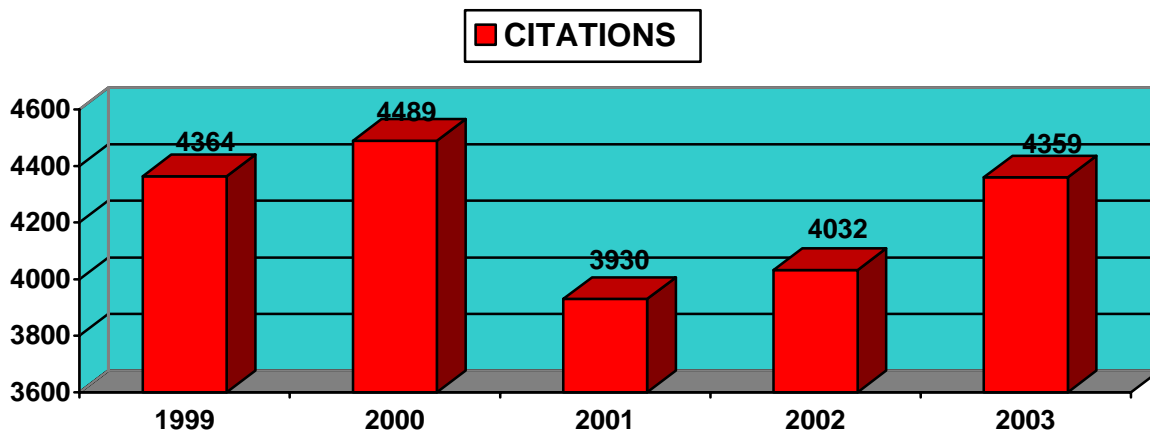
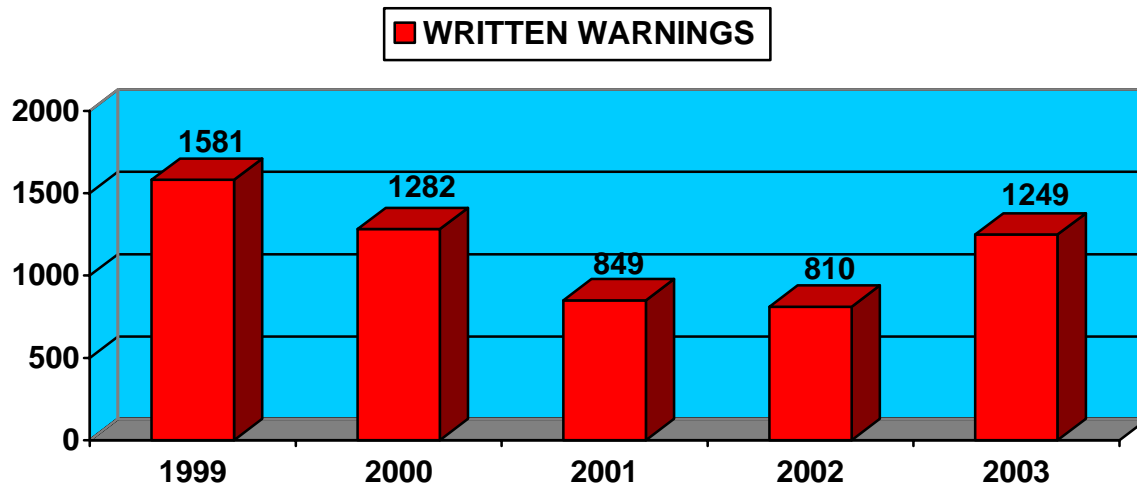
Last year we had three retirements and hired three new officers. Twenty-seven officers have over 20 years of service and are eligible for retirement. The associated graph shows the number of years of service officers have in five-year increments.



OFFICER CONTACTS, CITATIONS AND WRITTEN WARNINGS



Between 2000 and 2002 a downward trend in total contacts, citations and written warnings made by officers was evident. In 2003 the downward trend was reversed with a 34 percent increase in contacts over 2002. There was also a 65 percent increase in written warnings and an 8 percent increase in citations. Several factors attribute to this increase. First, officers were required to complete timesheets utilizing the daily log program, which resulted in more accurate record keeping. Secondly, officers were asked during work plan meetings to place a greater emphasis on contacting our constituents in the field. Increased contacts ultimately result in increased citations and warnings.



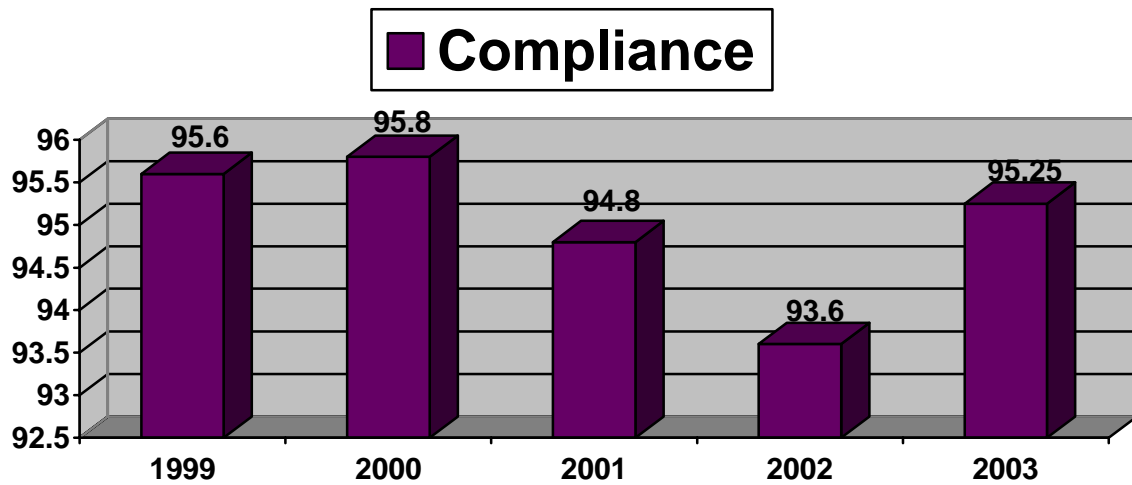
CONTACTS BY CATEGORY

The following table shows the total number of persons contacted by officers while checking fishermen, big game hunters, etc. Total contacts made while giving presentations at schools and hunter education classes is covered under miscellaneous.

Type of Contact	CENTRAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	NORTHEASTERN REGION	SOUTHERN REGION	SOUTHEASTERN REGION
FISH	28611	16781	7558	21922	6284
MIGRATORY BIRDS	1183	5881	65	1220	184
UPLAND GAME	418	579	14	417	237
BIG GAME	14313	7213	2224	32791	6488
COUGAR/BEAR	701	286	156	2403	627
FURBEARER	141	267	153	1503	226
MISCELLANEOUS	7162	5313	5273	9242	920
REGIONAL TOTALS	52528	36320	15443	69498	14966

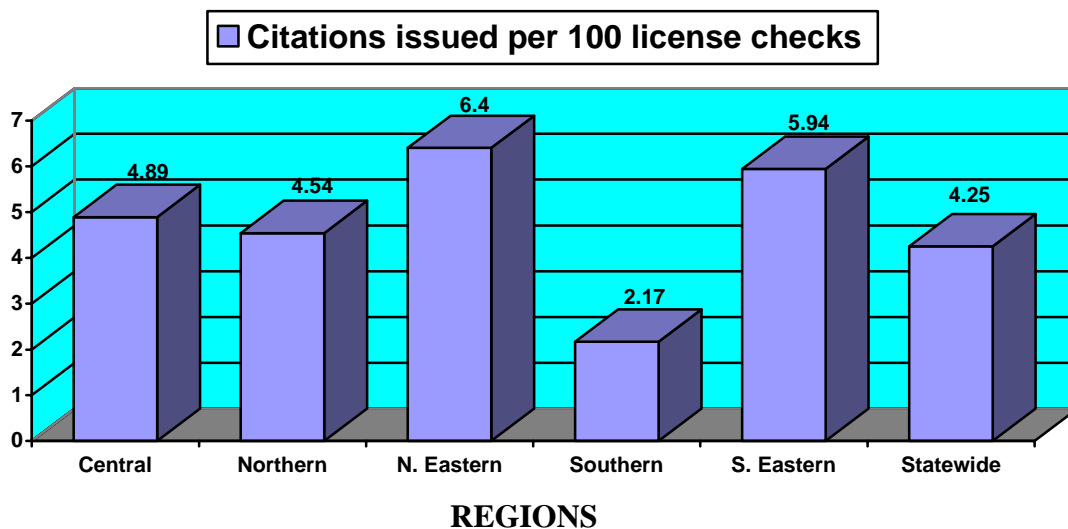
COMPLIANCE RATES

The compliance rate is determined by dividing the number of citations issued in 2003 by the number of hunting and fishing licenses checked by officers. In 2003 the statewide compliance rate was 95.25, a slight improvement over 2002.



VIOLATION RATES BY REGION

Citations issued per 100 licenses checked vary from a high of 6.4 in the northeastern region to a low of 2.17 in the southern region. The statewide average was 4.25 citations issued for every 100 licenses checked by officers.



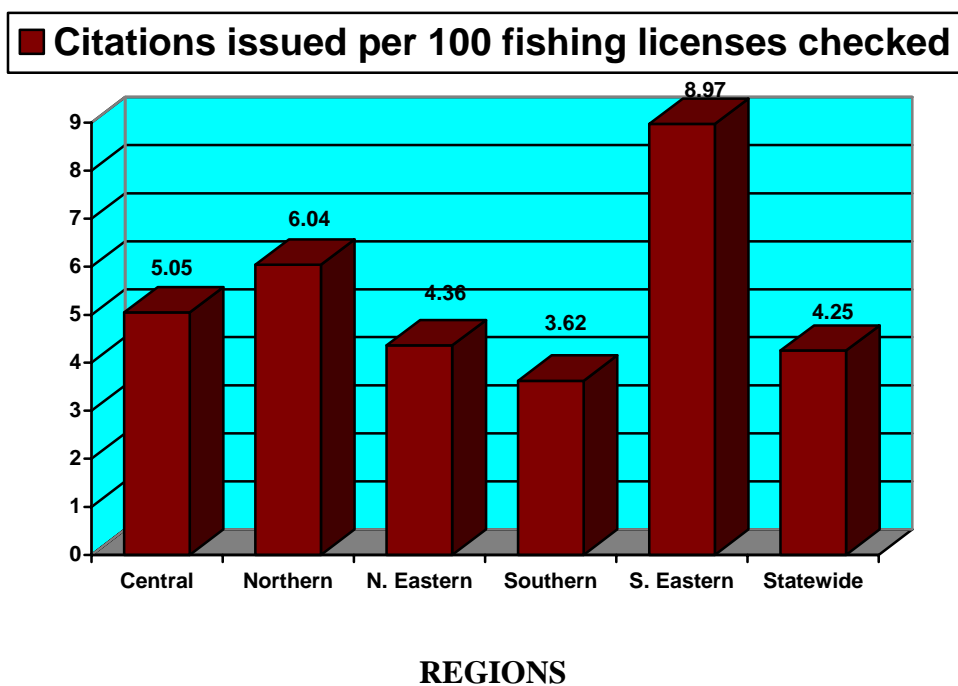
LICENCES CHECKED BY CATEGORY

The following table lists license checks by broad groups of wildlife species by region. Fishermen account for 46 percent of the total licenses checked which is the same as 2002. Big game hunters are the second largest group that accounts for 27 percent of the total licenses checked.

LICENSE CHECKS	CENTRAL REGION	NORTHERN REGION	NORTHEASTERN REGION	SOUTHERN REGION	SOUTHEASTERN REGION
FISH	19948	13230	5160	12143	2470
MIGRATORY BIRDS	916	5045	40	531	89
UPLAND GAME	280	557	14	100	141
BIG GAME	6453	3948	2224	11896	6693
COUGAR/BEAR	93	189	51	475	866
FURBEARER	84	130	61	156	770
MISCELLANEOUS	3425	3653	550	3016	10576
REGIONAL TOTALS	31199	26752	8100	28317	21605

FISHERMEN VIOLATION RATES

Violation rates among fishermen continue to be higher than those of hunters. Last year there was a significant decline in the central region of the state from 9.9 citations per 100 fishermen checked to 5.05 citations per 100 fishermen checked. This decline is a result of increased compliance with fishing regulations at Strawberry Reservoir. Statewide the violation rate declined from 6.1 in 2003 to 4.25 this past year.



INVESTIGATIONS, WARNINGS AND CITATIONS BY SPECIES

SPECIES	Citations Issued	Violations Investigated	Warnings Issued	Illegal Kills
ANTELOPE	5	18	3	19
MULE DEER	575	692	198	319
TROPHY MULE DEER	15	29	3	47
ELK	228	356	76	172
TROPHY ELK	12	60	4	26
DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP	2	3	1	0
TROPHY DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP	0	1	0	0
MOOSE	8	32	3	11
TROPHY MOOSE	1	10	0	2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT	1	0	0	0
ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP	0	5	0	1
BALD EAGLE	3	6	0	1
GOLDEN EAGLE	1	8	0	4
BLACK BEAR	13	21	2	9
BISON	2	1	0	1
BOBCAT	29	44	11	8
BRINE SHRIMP	4	3	0	0
COUGAR	15	49	13	13
DESERT TORTOISE	0	8	0	4
MOURNING DOVES	83	7	67	10
WATERFOWL	256	67	116	100
ENDANGERED SPECIES	0	2	1	23
FURBEARERS	32	67	20	12
PEREGRINE FALCON	0	1	0	0
NON-GAME BIRDS	24	20	6	1135
GAME FISH	2278	268	513	2433
NON-GAME FISH	10	5	2	103
NON-GAME MAMMALS	49	25	23	12
RAPTORS	12	24	4	23
REPTILES	3	5	3	5
THREATENED SPECIES	0	3	1	12
TURKEY	9	19	4	13
UPLAND GAME	71	31	33	86
UTAH PRAIREY DOG	0	1	0	0
WHISTLING SWAN	11	6	3	7

CITATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS AND WARNINGS BY COUNTY DURINIG 2003

COUNTY	CITATIONS	INVESTIGATION	WARNINGS	Grand Total
BEAVER	23	21	6	50
BOX ELDER	209	46	75	330
CACHE	178	65	75	318
CARBON	91	52	30	173
DAGGETT	76	18	22	116
DAVIS	274	44	72	390
DUCHESNE	189	102	50	341
EMERY	73	57	16	146
GARFIELD	44	66	23	133
GRAND	46	45	13	104
IRON	51	105	44	200
JUAB	109	26	6	141
KANE	40	48	30	118
MILLARD	65	34	8	107
MORGAN	80	34	11	125
PIUTE	51	20	22	93
RICH	57	31	10	98
SALT LAKE	134	112	113	359
SAN JUAN	203	61	108	372
SANPETE	188	54	14	256
SEVIER	189	159	96	444
SUMMIT	285	146	37	468
TOOELE	84	34	10	128
UINTAH	211	143	67	421
UTAH	297	154	40	491
WASATCH	824	131	86	1041
WASHINGTON	138	95	101	334
WAYNE	19	12	23	54
WEBER	131	82	41	254
Grand Total	4359	1997	1249	7605

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS BY SPECIES

The following is a table showing broad groups of violations by species. Other criminal violations cover a wide variety of violations from drugs and alcohol to littering.

ANTELOPE –5- ARRESTS			
Wanton destruction	4	Wrong Sex	1

BALD EAGLE – 3- ARRESTS			
Wanton Destruction	1	Shooting from a vehicle	1
Loaded Firearm in a vehicle	1		

BEAR –13 - ARRESTS			
Other criminal violations	2	Unlawful methods / taking	5
Baiting	2	Aiding and assisting	2
Trespass	2		

BISON –2 - ARRESTS			
Unlawful take w/out a license	1	Littering	1

BOBCAT –29- ARRESTS			
License violations	3	Tagging violations	3
Wanton destruction	2	Unlawful methods / taking	16
Disturbing another's traps	1	Trespassing	2
Other criminal code	2		

COUGAR -15 - ARRESTS			
License violation	2	Failure to seal	1
Unlawful taking	2	Firearms violations	2
Aiding and assisting	1	Other criminal code	3
Spotlighting	1	Wanton Destruction	3

DEER –575 - ARRESTS			
Firearm violations	116	Other criminal code violations	32
License violations	67	Trespassing	59
Wanton destruction	42	Unlawful methods / taking	74
Aiding and assisting	14	Other wildlife	11
Tagging violations	37	Transporting violations	2
Wasting	15	Littering	4
Failure to wear hunter orange	8	Failure to leave evidence of sex	3
Spotlighting	18	Unquivered arrows	6
Alcohol/drugs	28	Hunting with out adult supervision	5
OHV	34		

TROPHY DEER –15 - ARRESTS			
Aiding and assisting	2	License violations	3
Failure to tag	1	Wanton destruction	6
Unlawful donation	1	Trespass	2

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP -2 - ARRESTS			
Vehicle in a restricted area	2		

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS BY SPECIES
(Continued)

DOVE -83 - ARRESTS			
Wanton destruction	5	Firearm violations	11
License violations	6	No evidence of sex	3
Trespassing	7	Unplugged shotgun	20
Unlawful methods/taking	8	Wasting	3
No Hip Number	17	Drugs	2
Baiting	1		

DUCKS -256 - ARRESTS			
Other wildlife	25	License violations	9
Trespassing	13	Unlawful methods / taking	65
Unlawful use of toxic shot	11	No Hip Registration	101
Unplugged shotgun	26	Other criminal	6

ELK -228 - ARRESTS			
Firearm violations	43	License violations	21
Wanton destruction	14	Other criminal code violations	6
Tagging violations	22	Trespassing	31
Unlawful methods / taking	47	Failure to wear hunter orange	8
Wasting	2	Failure to leave evidence of sex	3
Other wildlife	5	OHV	8
Aiding and assisting	5	Unlawful possession of antlers/horns	5
Alcohol	7	Unquivered arrows	1

TROPHY ELK -12 - ARRESTS			
Wanton destruction - antler restriction	3	Wasting	3
Unlawful methods/taking	5	Other criminal	1

FURBEARERS -30 - ARRESTS			
Unlawful methods / taking	21	License violations	4
Traffic	1	Spotlighting	2
Firearms	1	Other wildlife	2
Wanton Destruction	1		

GAME FISH -2278 - ARRESTS			
License violations	1235	Other criminal code violations	22
Firearm violations	3	OHV	54
Wanton destruction	1	Trespassing	45
Unlawful methods/taking	729	Aiding and assisting	1
Drugs/alcohol	68	Wasting /spoiling protected wildlife	91
Release of aquatic wildlife	1	Unlawful use of corn or bait	5
Littering	23		

GEESE -20 - ARRESTS			
Unplugged shotgun	6	Trespassing	3
License violations	3	Unlawful methods/taking	7
Shooting from a vehicle	1		

TYPES OF VIOLATIONS BY SPECIES

(Continued)

GOLDEN EAGLE -1 - ARRESTS- ARRESTS			
Unlawful taking of protected wildlife	1		

MOOSE –8 - ARRESTS			
Trespassing	1	Unlawful taking – No license	1
License violation	2	Other - Traffic	4

TROPHY MOOSE –1 - ARRESTS			
Unlawful Take	1		
NONGAME BIRDS -24- ARRESTS			
Firearm violations	3	Wanton destruction	5
Unlawful methods / taking	8	Trespassing	4
Commercialization	1	Other	3

NONGAME MAMMALS –49 - ARRESTS			
Firearm violations	17	Spotlighting	19
Trespassing	3	Other violations	10

RAPTORS (NOT T&E) –12 - ARRESTS			
Wanton destruction	2	Unlawful methods/taking	8
Other	2		

REPTILES – ARRESTS			
Commercialization	2	Unlawful taking/methods	1

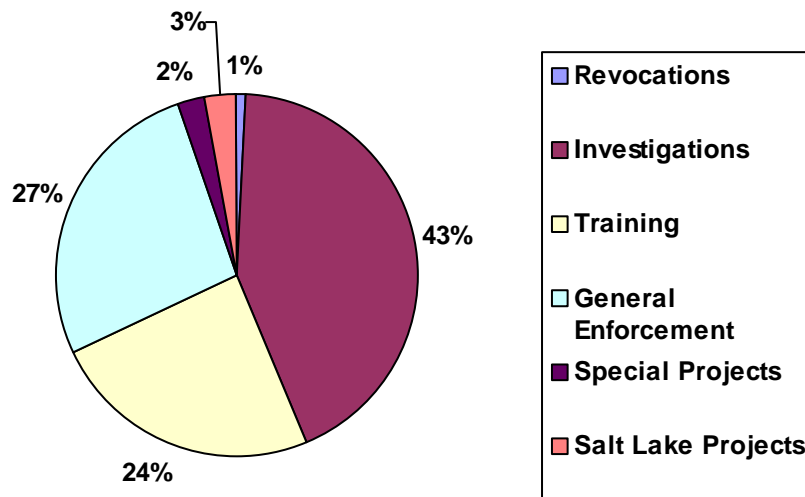
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT - 1- ARRESTS			
Other	1		

TURKEY -9 - ARRESTS			
OHV	2	Wanton Destruction	5
Unlawful taking	2		

UPLAND GAME -74 - ARRESTS			
Firearm violations	13	License violations	9
Trespassing	11	Other criminal code violations	7
Wanton destruction	7	Unlawful taking	15
Other wildlife	12		

HISTLING SWAN –11- ARRESTS			
Unlawful methods/taking	10	Wanton Destruction	1

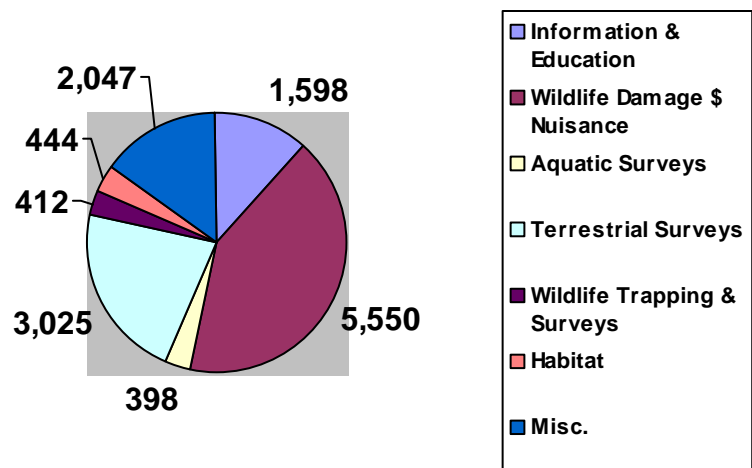
STATEWIDE OFFICER HOURS BY ACTIVITY (PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TIME)



NON-ENFORCEMENT (HOURS SPENT STATEWIDE)



Responding to wildlife complaints continues to consume a significant portion of officers time. As a result of the prolonged drought Utah has been experiencing, bear complaints continue to rise.





HELP STOP POACHING



The Division of Wildlife's Law Enforcement Section operates the Help Stop Poaching Hotline. The program was established in 1981, and has steadily evolved since. The Hotline is staffed around the clock, 365 days per year. Law enforcement personnel at the Salt Lake City DWR headquarters handle calls for service placed during business hours. Calls occurring after business hours, on weekends and holidays, are routed to a team of non-sworn volunteers.

Utah conservation officers ask that any and all information concerning a known, or suspected violation be reported.

Record as much of the following information as possible, and call the Help Stop Poaching Hotline immediately:

- **Date, time and location of violation**
- **License plate number of suspect vehicle, direction of travel**
- **Vehicle description, including identifying features, dents, stickers, etc.**
- **Description of person(s) involved**
- **Details of violation**
- **Statements of violators, if overheard**

Do not attempt to intercede in a violation, or to detain those responsible. Be safe, and be a good witness!

The hotline is manned 24 hours a day, 365 days per year by citizen volunteers that wish to assist with the anti-poaching effort. Please report wildlife crime, call 1-800-662-DEER (3337). Most wireless phone users may now dial *DEER to reach us toll free.

The Help Stop Poaching Hotline accounted for thirty-three percent of the 1,740 investigations performed by Utah Conservation Officers last year. Calls to the Help Stop Poaching Hotline continue to increase annually. The 604 wildlife violation reports received in 2003 is an increase of 20 percent from 2002 totals. Partially a result of the vast increase in wireless phone usage, it is also demonstrates the public's interest in taking a more active role in the protection of our state's resources.

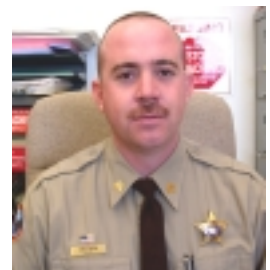
The HSP team symbolizes the public's increasing support of wildlife law enforcement. Since the program's inception in mid-summer 2002, the seven volunteer members have taken more than 300 law enforcement calls, and an equal number of calls for information.

In 2003, the Blue Ribbon Fisheries Council purchased 400 Help Stop Poaching signs for placement along blue ribbon waters throughout Utah. These signs will be posted with the assistance of Dedicated Hunter Program volunteers. It is hoped that these signs will serve to remind recreating Utahns of the program, and to encourage them to take an active role in the protection of the states wildlife.

In 2002 the Help Stop Poaching Program began the process of developing a self-contained wildlife law enforcement and poaching education display to be used at various events throughout the state. Most state and national non-profit wildlife organizations were asked to assist the Division through donations.

Since completion in early 2003, an estimated 65,000 sportsmen have been exposed to the display.

Those interested in having the Help Stop Poaching trailer at a local event should contact Sgt Stacey Jones or Sgt Brent Olson at 801-538-4489 to check availability.

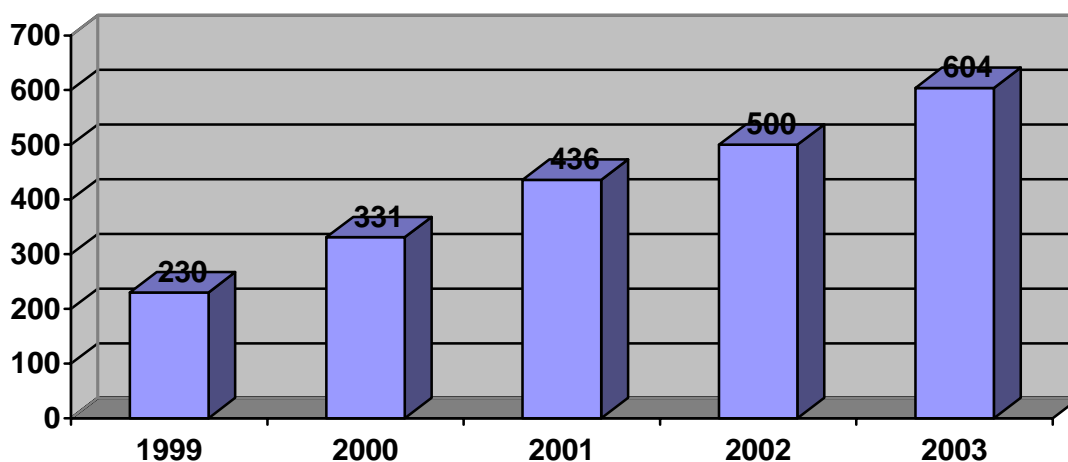


**Tony Wood,
Administrative Sergeant**

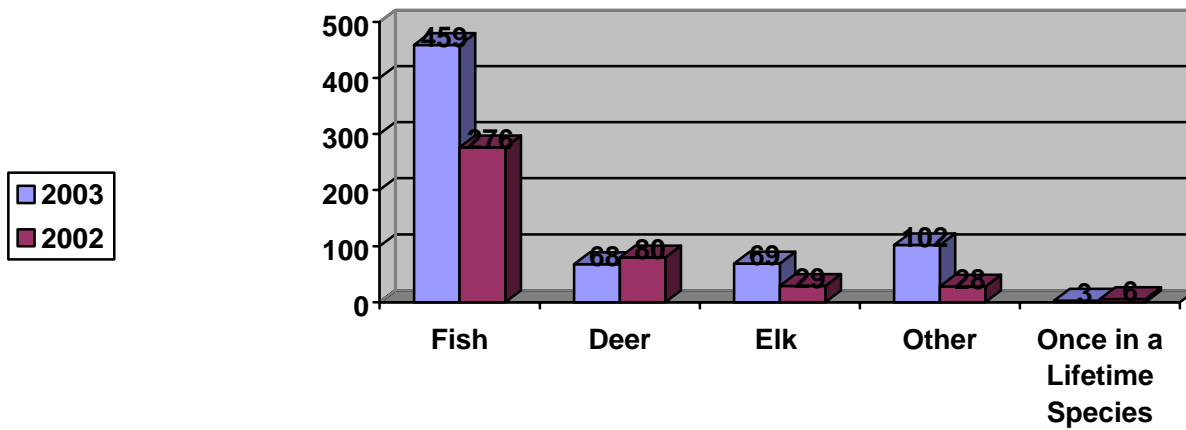


Wildlife violation reports directed to the Help Stop Poaching Hotline continue to increase. The following charts show the number of calls received by DWR Officers since 1999, the regional distribution of calls and the confirmed illegal kills by species in 2003.

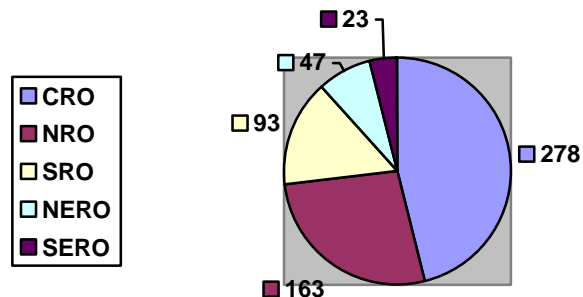
HELP STOP POACHING INITIATED INVESTIGATIONS 1999-2003



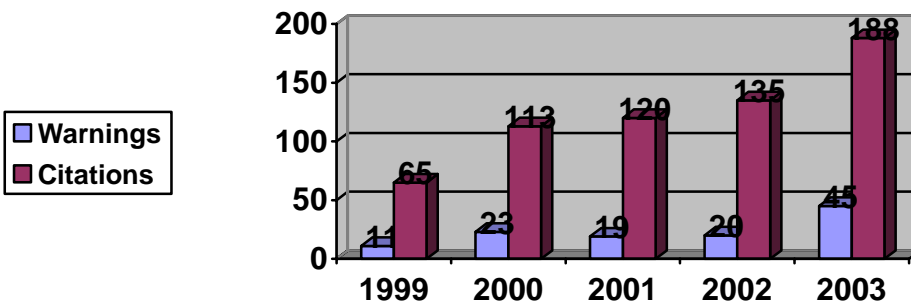
HELP STOP POACHING CALLS BY SPECIES -2003



ILLEGAL KILLS CONFIRMED DURING COURSE OF HSP INVESTIGATIONS BY REGION 2002-2003



CITATIONS AND WARNINGS ISSUED DURING COURSE OF HSP INVESTIGATIONS 1999-2003



LICENSE SUSPENSIONS AND REWARDS

The Law Enforcement Section initiates suspension proceedings on most convictions of Wanton Destruction, which is defined in Utah Statute 23-20-4. The suspension process is a civil procedure that provides remediation to the states wildlife and to the sportsmen of the state of Utah. Utah is also a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact and therefore most of these suspensions are honored in 16 other states. Juveniles do not qualify for Compact suspension. In 2003 there were 106 suspensions handed down by the hearing officer of which 98 qualified for the Compact. Salt Lake Law Enforcement Administration also instigated 24 Suspensions of all privileges based on Utah residents failing to appear on citations in other compact states. The following tables have the statistics for the last four years by region.

2003 License Suspensions and Types

Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting and Fishing	Hunting and Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	6	15	1	1			3	2			28
Northeastern	2	14	2	1			1				20
Northern	9	11	3		1						24
Southeastern	3	5			1		1				10
Salt Lake Admin				24							24
Southern	3	19	2								24
Totals	23	64	8	26	2		5	2			130

2002 License Suspensions and Types

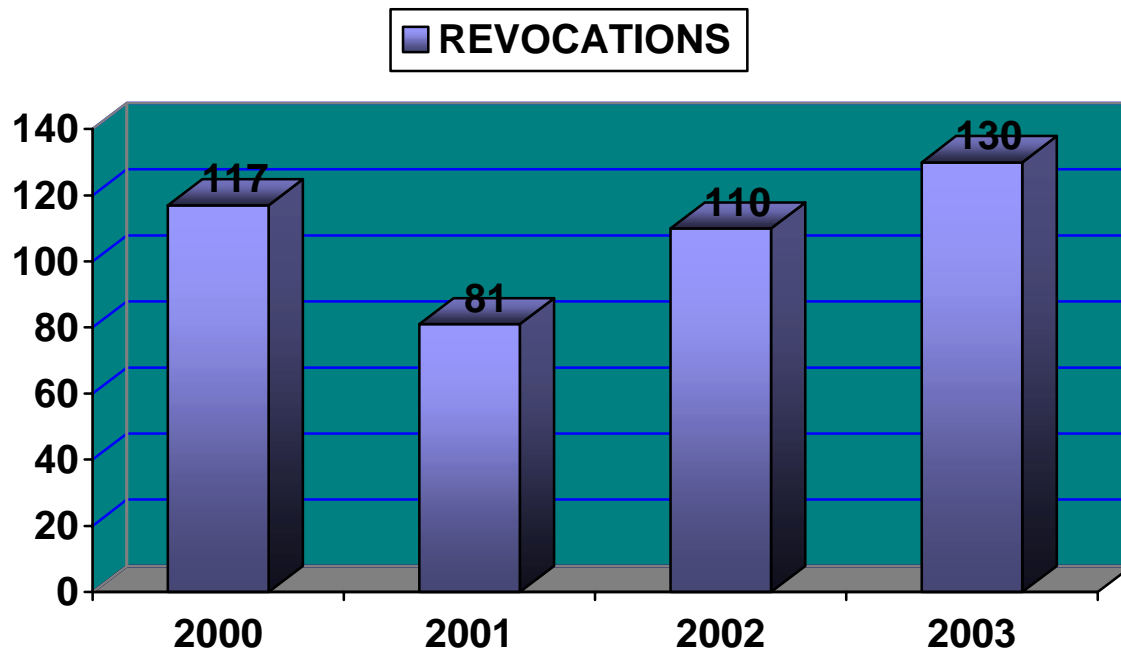
Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting and Fishing	Hunting and Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	2	20	4				4				30
Northeastern	1	12		1				1			15
Northern	8	14	3		1		7				33
Southeastern	1	12	1				3		1	1	19
Southern		7	1				1	2	2		13
Totals	12	65	9	1	1		15	3	3	1	110

2001 License Suspensions and Types

Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting and Fishing	Hunting and Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	2	20	1	1	1	1	1				27
Northeastern	1	12		1				1			15
Northern	3	16	2	1							22
Southeastern		8	4								12
Southern		4		1							5
Totals	6	60	7	4	1	1	1	1			81

2000 License Suspensions and Types

Region	Fishing	Big Game Hunting	Small Game Hunting	All	Hunting and Fishing	Hunting and Trapping	All Hunting	Cougar Bear	Trapping	Falconry	Totals
Central	3	15						1			19
Northeastern		34	1				1				36
Northern		10	1		1		3				15
Southeastern	5	12									17
Southern	1	22	2		2			3			30
Totals	9	93	4		3		4	4			117

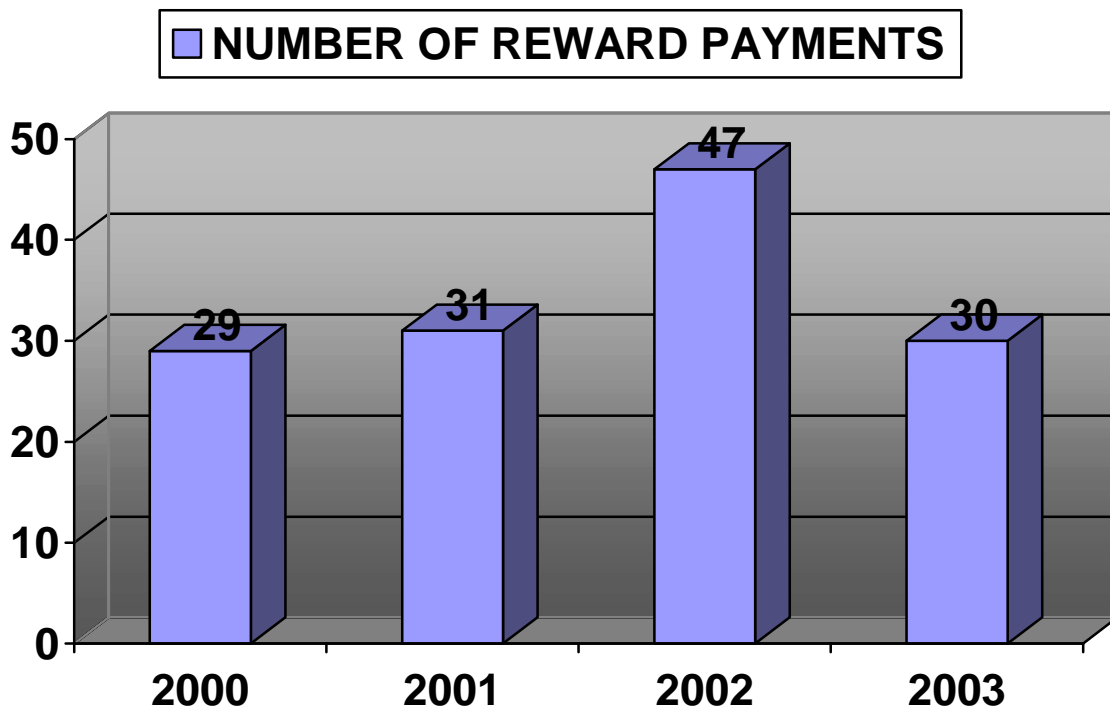
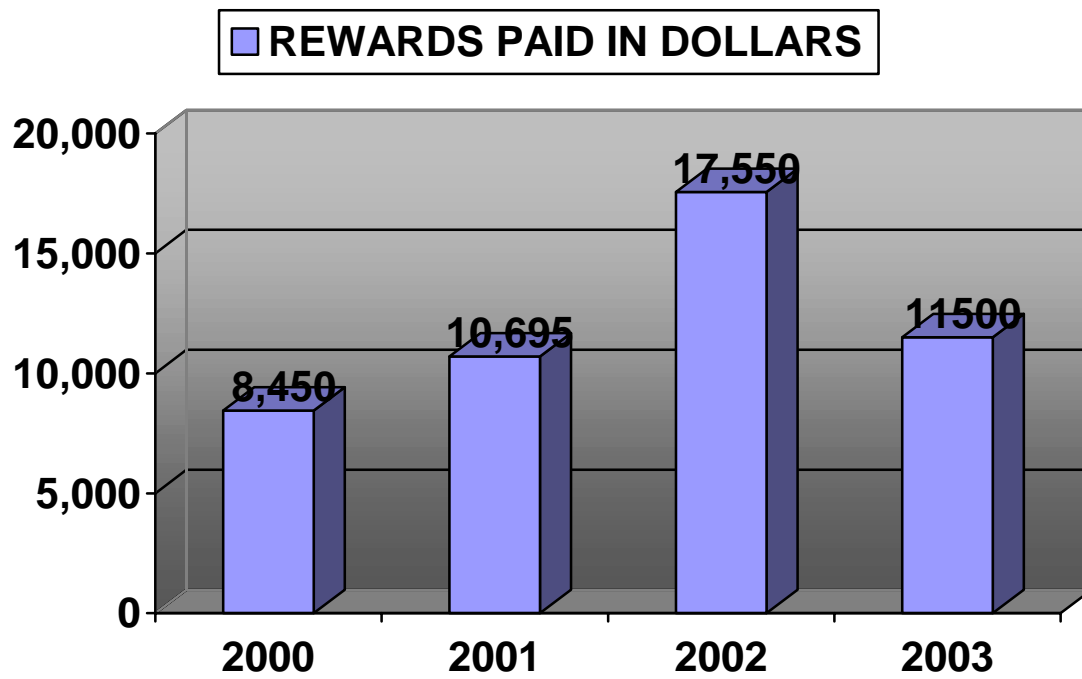


Reward Payments

Reward payments are offered to those individuals who have taken the time and effort to report a wildlife violation that results in an arrest and “successful prosecution”. Successful prosecution means the screening, filing of charges and subsequent adjudication for the poaching incident. Rewards are also a means that officers can use to provide an incentive to encourage those informants that may otherwise be reluctant to provide information. Rewards are considered whenever citizens provide information that results in an arrest and conviction. The amount of a reward is not based on the fine or jail sentence imposed by the court. Persons receiving a reward permit are not eligible for a monetary reward.

Reward Payments

Region	2003	2002	2001	2000
Central	11 Rewards Totaling \$3450	20 Rewards Totaling \$5750	8 Rewards Totaling \$2875	5 Rewards Totaling \$800
Northeastern	5 Rewards Totaling \$2400	12 Rewards Totaling \$3110	9 Rewards Totaling \$3475	5 Rewards Totaling \$2350
Northern	3 Rewards Totaling \$2400	3 Rewards Totaling \$1200	8 Rewards Totaling \$2675	7 Rewards Totaling \$2500
Southeastern	5 Rewards Totaling \$1000	8 Rewards Totaling \$6200	4 Rewards Totaling \$700	7 Rewards Totaling \$2000
Southern	6 Rewards Totaling \$2250	4 Rewards Totaling \$1300	2 Rewards Totaling \$970	5 Rewards Totaling \$800
Totals	30 Rewards Totaling \$11500	47 Rewards Totaling \$17,550	31 Rewards Totaling \$10,695	29 Rewards Totaling \$8450



Poaching-Reported Reward Permit Rule

(1) Any person who provides information leading to another person's arrest and successful prosecution for wanton destruction of a bull moose, desert bighorn ram, rocky mountain bighorn ram, rocky mountain goat, bison, bull elk, buck deer, buck pronghorn and turkey under Section 23-20-4 for any once-in-a-lifetime species or within any limited entry area may receive a permit from the division to hunt for the same species and on the same once-in-a-lifetime or limited entry area where the violation occurred.

The following table lists all Reward Permits that have been issued as a result of information turned in on poaching cases. The breakdown is by Region/Year. In 2003 we issued a total of 12 permits.

Region	Year	Area of Poaching/ Type of Animal	Permit Issued
CRO	2003	West Desert Riverbed/ Antelope	West Desert Riverbed/ Antelope-1
		Wasatch Mtns./ Elk	Wasatch Mtns./ Elk-1
		Book Cliffs/ Deer	Book Cliffs/ Deer-1
	2002	Vernon/ Deer 2 cases	Vernon Deer-2
		Utah County South/ Turkey	Utah County South/ Turkey-1
		Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch Elk-1
		Nebo/ Elk	Nebo/ Elk-1
		Wasatch/ Mtn. Goat	Wasatch/ Mtn. Goat-1
	2001	East Canyon/ Moose	East Canyon/ Moose-1
		Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch/ Elk-1
		Nebo/ Elk	Nebo/Elk-1
	2000	Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch/ Elk-1
NERO	2003	North Slope Three Corners / Elk	North Slope Three Corners / Elk - 1
	2002	Three Corners / Elk	Three Corners / Elk - 1
		Book Cliffs / Deer	Book Cliffs / Deer - 1
	2001	Anthro/ Elk	Anthro/ Elk-1
		Wasatch/ Elk	Wasatch/ Elk-1
	2000	Bookcliffs/ Elk	Bookcliffs/ Elk-1
		Anthro/ Elk	Bookcliffs/ Elk-1
		Diamond Mtn./ Deer	Diamond Mtn./ Deer-1
		Three Corners/ Elk	Three Corners/ Elk-1
		Three Corners/ Moose	San Juan/ Elk-1
NRO	2003	Cache North/ Elk	Mt. Dutton/ Elk-1
	2002	Cache North/ Elk	Cache North/ Elk-1
		Cache South/ Elk	Cache South/ Elk-1
SERO	2003	Central Mountains, Manti/ Elk	Central Mountains Manti/ Elk-1
	2002	Manti/ Elk 4 Cases	Manti/ Elk-4
		Henry Mt./ Deer	Henry Mt./ Deer-1
	2001	La Sal/ Turkey	La Sal/ Turkey-1
	2000	Dolores Triangle/ Deer	Dolores Triangle/ Deer-1
SRO	2003	Fillmore Oak Creek/ Deer 2 Cases	Fillmore Oak Creek/ Deer-2
		Monroe Mountain/ Turkey	Fillmore Pahvant/ Turkey-1
		Paunsaugunt/ Deer	Paunsaugunt/ Deer-1
		Southwest Desert/ Antelope	Southwest Desert/ Antelope-1
	2002	Paunsaugunt/ Deer 3 Cases	Paunsaugunt/ Deer-3
		Pahvant/ Elk	Pahvant/ Elk-1
	2001	Fish Lake/ Elk	Fish Lake/ Elk-1
	2000	Paunsaugunt/ Deer 2 Cases	Paunsaugunt/ Deer-2

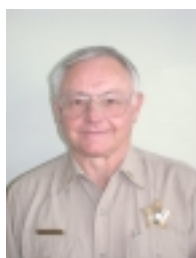
Hunter Education Annual Report for 2003

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hunter Education program is to form a partnership between the Division of Wildlife Resources and volunteers to educate hunters to be: safe, knowledgeable, responsible and involved.

STAFF

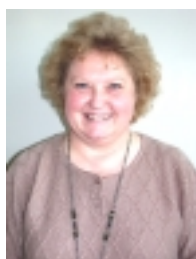
Salt Lake Staff



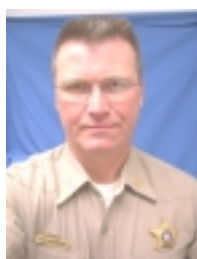
Lenny Rees
Lieutenant / Hunter
Education Coordinator



RaLynne Takeda
Assistant Hunter Ed
Coordinator



Sue Musser
Hunter Ed Secretary



Mark Beamson
MILITARY LEAVE

Cache Valley Hunter Education Center



Kirk Smith
Manager



Gary Cook
Assistant Manager

Lee Kay Hunter Education Center



Cathryn Smith
Manager



Herm Rackl
Assistant Manager

The staff of the hunter education program consists of the Hunter Education Coordinator, two assistant coordinators, one Sergeant and one civilian, one secretary, two hunter education center managers and two assistant managers.

The program includes 650 active hunter education volunteer instructors and 120 active center volunteers.

Hunter Education Programs

There are four education programs under the hunter education umbrella. They are:

- **Hunter Education** - completion of a basic hunter education course is mandatory for any person born after December 31, 1965 before purchasing a hunting license;
- **Furharvester Education** - completion of a basic furharvester education course is mandatory for any person born after December 31, 1984 before purchasing a furharvester license;
- **Bowhunter Education** - this program is not mandatory however, is suggested for new bowhunters;
- **Shooting Sports** - this program is designed to introduce people into the sport of shooting.

Hunting Accidents

The division documented six hunting accidents in 2003. One of the accidents was fatal and five were not. Four of the six accidents were self-inflicted.

Students Certified

In 2003 a total of 10,602 students were certified in the basic hunter education program. Students received a minimum of 12-15 hours of instruction. The course includes instruction in: firearm safety, hunter responsibility, wildlife management, survival, wildlife identification, and more. Testing includes a written test and shooting proficiency test. The internet hunter education program was introduced to Utah students in August. Since that time, over 200 students have completed the basic program.

In 2003, forty-two students completed the basic furharvester education program. Students receive a minimum of 10 hours of instruction. The course includes training in: the use of trapping devices, trapping laws, trapping management, proper catch handling, trapper health and safety and ethics relating to the avoidance of conflicts with other public land users and private landowners.

In 2003, fifty-six students were certified in the basic bowhunter education program. In the bowhunter course students receive a minimum of 10 hours of instruction which includes training in: the safe use of bowhunting equipment, fundamentals of bowhunting, shooting and hunting techniques and hunter ethics.

In 2003, 1,889 people participated in the shooting sports program. The shooting sports course includes firearm safety, shooting air gun, shotgun and .22 rifle. This program was offered in seven locations along the Wasatch front and at Utah State University in Logan. During the shooting sports program, 1,423 gun locks were distributed.

Lee Kay Hunter Education Center

The Lee Kay Center for Hunter Education is a 1,250 acre training and public shooting complex located at 6000 West 2100 South in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information they can be reached at 801-972-1326.

This 200-acre shooting facility includes:

50 Foot Range

- *Range canopy with concrete pad.
- *47 shooting stations for multi-position range for hunter education qualification.
- *.22 rimfire rifle only.

75 Yard Range

- *Range canopy with concrete pad.
- *34 shooting stations, bench rest or off-hand shooting.
- *15, 25, and 75-yard target lines.

100 Yard Range

- *Range canopy with shooting benches and concrete pad.
- *Military style open-fire range. Underground target pit accessed by tunnel through the safety berm.
- *16 shooting stations.

200/300-Yard Range

- *Range canopy with shooting benches and concrete pad.
- *Military style open-fire range. Target pit accessed by sidewalk behind 100-yard safety berm.

Shotgun Concession

- *A private concessionaire operates shotgun range.
- *15 trap fields
- *3 skeet fields

Archery Range

8 outdoor shooting stations set up in 10-yard increments from 10 to 60 yards.

Dog Training Area

850 acres with ponds. Used year round.

The training center has a 200-seat auditorium that may be divided into two classrooms.

The annual number of hunter education students attending courses at center – 1,123

The annual number of hunter education students qualifying at center's range were 3,494

Annual patrons at shotgun facility were 7,893

Annual patrons at archery / handgun / rifle ranges were 24, 263



In 2003, 87 people volunteered 8,834 hours at the center for a total value of \$188,348.80.

Fee Schedule:

Adult daily pass	\$ 4.00
Adult 10-day annual pass	\$10.00
Youth daily pass	\$ 2.00
Youth 10 day pass	\$15.00
Eye protection	\$ 4.00
Hearing protection	\$.50
Targets	\$.25
Spotting Scope rental	\$ 2.00

Improvements at Lee Kay Center

50 foot hunter education range - Safety fencing

75-yard range - Installed windbreak; Safety fencing

100/200/300 – yard range - Installed windbreak; Safety fencing

Facility - Landscaping project completed.

Dog Training Area - Road improvements; noxious weed elimination; and fencing repair have been completed and will be done on a continuing basis.

Cache Valley Hunter Education Center

The Cache Valley Hunter Education Center consists of a 68-acre training and public shooting complex located at 2851 West 200 North in Logan, Utah. For more information they can be reached at 435-753-4600.

Archery Indoor Range - 10-point indoor shooting range 20 yard targets.

Archery Outdoor Range - 10-point outdoor site-in range target distances 10 to 80 yards.

50 foot Smallbore Indoor Range - 9 shooting points for multi-position hunter education qualification, general public use and organized tournaments .22 rimfire only.

50 foot Smallbore Outdoor Range - Range canopy with concrete pad.; 15 shooting points with metal mesh dividers; .22 rimfire only

50 Yard Outdoor Range; Range canopy with shooting benches and concrete pad.; 14 shooting points; 25 and 50-yard target lines



100 Yard Range - Range canopy with shooting benches and concrete pad; 14 shooting points

Shotgun Facility - 1 trap field; 2 combination trap & skeet fields; 1 combination trap, riverside skeet and five-stand sporting clay field.

Training Center

Three classrooms with a capacity of 35 people each.

Indoor archery, smallbore range, main office and restrooms

The annual number of hunter education students in classroom and shooting range - 500

The annual patrons at archery / handgun / rifle - 8,965

The annual patrons at shotgun facility - 7,093

In 2003, 67 people volunteered 6,277 hours to the center totaling a value of \$125,434.

Events Hosted

State 4-H championship

Cache Archery club fall, winter and spring indoor leagues

Cache Archery club fall, winter and spring youth archery league involving 45 youth.



Cache Practical Shooters monthly, International Practical Shooters Association matches.

Trap / skeet / riverside skeet	\$ 3.50 per round
Trap punch pass 10 rounds	\$30.00
Five stand sporting clays	\$ 5.00

Cache Practical Shooters weekly, indoor Smallbore practical pistol matches.

Logan Rifle & Pistol club indoor Smallbore NRA pistol league.

Weekly 4-H shooting sports program.

NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge training and practice.

Shotgun trap leagues and turkey shoots

United States Bench rest Association 100 yard bench rest matches

Stock Builders company vender appreciation shotgun fun shoot

Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout projects.

Girl Scouts of America archery training clinic.



Improvements at Cache Valley

Construction was completed of a porch canopy on shotgun clubhouse.

Construction of a 1800 square foot workshop and storage building to be used by Cache Valley Hunter Education center and DWR law enforcement and biologists.

Projects in Progress

Expansion of the 100-yard to 300-yard ranges
Development of organized training ranges.
Target stand replacement of 50 foot and 50 yard outdoor ranges.

Fee Schedule:

Adult daily pass	\$ 4.00
Adult 10 day annual pass	\$30.00
Youth daily pass	\$ 2.00
Youth 10-day pass	\$15.00
Eye protection	\$ 4.00
Hearing protection	\$.50
Firearm targets	\$.25
Archery targets	\$.50
Spotting scope rental	\$ 2.00



Northern Region
Lieutenant Scott Davis
Investigator: Ed Liese

Sergeant John Pratt
Conservation Officers
David Beveridge
Verl Hanchett
Cory Inglet
Mitch Lane
Rick Schulze
Kevan Penrose

Sergeant Rick Olson
Conservation Officers
Jodi Becker
Larry Davis
Bruce Johnson
Kip King
Bob Witt



Self Defense?
Moose Shot As It Was Running Away

An elk hunter called and reported that he shot a bull moose in self-defense. When officers investigated the hunter, Larry Miller, he could not find the moose carcass. Officers found the moose several weeks later and determined the moose was shot as it was walking or running away. A search warrant was served in Arizona where the firearm and photographs were recovered from the defendant's home. The rifle was buried in Millers back yard.

Miller plead no contest to attempted wanton destruction of protected wildlife a Class A misdemeanor. A second charge of obstructing justice was dismissed. Miller paid a fine \$200.15, Restitution of \$1500.00 and also forfeited a digital camera to the Help Stop Poaching program.



Scott Davis
Lieutenant

I couldn't help but think as I reviewed our work accomplishments for 2003, what a difference a year can make. In 2002, our region lost eleven moose and five elk to poachers during the fall hunts. This past fall our region lost two moose and two elk during that same time period. Our investigative caseload decreased from 384 cases in 2002 to 345 cases this past year. This is most likely a direct result of a decrease in the number of regional officers. Officers Richard Ashcroft and Mitch Lane both took temporary positions in Salt Lake Headquarters. Richard has been assigned to help the statewide investigator program and Mitch Lane has been assigned to help the Hunter Education Program. Mitch filled in behind Mark Bearnson, who was called to active military duty. Our region received and investigated 169 Help Stop Poaching calls this past year as compared to 138 calls the previous year, which was another noticeable difference in our workload.

Officers who investigated the illegally taken moose in 2002 were able to arrest three individuals involved in the unlawful taking of two moose this year. District Court judges in



Summit and Davis Counties later fined the three defendants \$11,426. This past year, officers detected and apprehended 1,496 persons for violations related to the wildlife and criminal codes and issued 1,117 citations and 379 warnings. Officers worked 537 hours assisting other law enforcement agencies. In July, five officers assisted the U.S. Forest Service at the national Rainbow Family gathering that was held on the north slope of the Uintas.

Officers conducted nine major roadblocks during the general deer season. For the most part, hunter compliance of rules and regulations relating to the deer hunt were average to below average. The Idaho Fish and Game arrested a Cache County hunter for taking a deer unlawfully in Idaho as a result of the Clarkston roadblock. The hunter spotlighted and killed a large buck several hours before legal hunting hours. He then tagged the animal with his Utah deer permit and transported the deer back to his residence near Clarkston.

Officers continue to assist other agencies and sections within our Division. In compliance with the new regional work plan, officers increased the amount of time they spent in non-enforcement related activities. Officers spent 11.4% of their time assisting with the Director's new wildlife habitat initiative, wildlife surveys, habitat projects, hunter education and information and education related activities.

Each year has its own set of circumstances that drives the direction in which we accomplish our work. The tasks remain the same but the percentage of time officers spent in any one of those tasks change each year. The obvious difference between 2003 and previous years was that we accomplished more work with fewer officers.



John Pratt
Sergeant

On the last day of the general elk season, just at first light,

four elk hunters walked over a mahogany ridge overlooking a sage and grass bowl. Foraging quietly in the bowl was a small herd of elk, two cows, a calf, a spike bull and a five-point bull. Within minutes, all five elk lay dead on the ground. A ridge away another hunter heard the shooting and told investigators the scene sounded like a brief war. It wasn't until the following morning investigators were able to follow up and visit the crime scene.

This is an all too familiar scenario that prompted me to think about how far Utah's wildlife officer's investigative techniques have improved in the last 30 years. Thirty years ago the average officer would have looked over the scene, and then talked to the people involved. If a violation was not obvious, and the suspects didn't confess, more than likely no case would have been made. In this situation, Investigator Ed Liese and I examined the crime scene using metal detectors. We recovered shell casings and bullets that we examined by determining make, model and caliber of suspect firearms. We documented locations by using GPS receivers and reconstructed the incident. We were able to fill in the blanks that only the participants knew. Once the interviews began, specific questions were directed to each individual with surprising results. The participants themselves didn't know who shot which elk, even though we knew.

Other advances in investigative techniques include time of death, which most officers consider routine today. The opening morning of this last deer season a Cache Valley resident claimed to have killed a deer within minutes of legal shooting hours. Time of death data, including eye pupil and mid-thigh temperature measurements indicated the deer was killed at least three hours prior to legal shooting time. Again, a GPS receiver was used and placed the location of kill in Idaho, not in Utah as claimed. This information was used to convince the suspect to tell the whole story. The deer was shot at 4:30 a.m. using headlights just north of a state line fence in Idaho. Years ago this would have been impossible.

Not all advances have been used to convict suspects. Better examinations of carcasses have



yielded bullets, bullet paths, angles of bullet entries, position of the animals when hit and even distances of travel after being hit. This information was used to focus on suspects and eliminate others in the area around an incident near the Weber/Cache County line in October 2003 where an illegal elk was left and witnesses would have likely squared off in a he said, she said scenario.

I haven't even mentioned DNA technology, which will move crime scene analysis forward by leaps and bounds in the next thirty years.

I only wish I had today's technology thirty years ago.



Cory Inglet
Tremonton District

The drought was the biggest issue in Box Elder County in 2003. The county is typically dry and after five years of drought the range was extremely dry. This year we were lucky with only one major range fire, which burned several hundred acres of deer winter range. Over the past several years we have had major range fires losing several thousand acres of good sagebrush winter range. Big game populations also suffered. Deer populations were as low as after the winter of 1983-84. The waterfowl management areas and wetland areas also got very dry. The state waterfowl management areas did better than the federal Bear River Refuge, which became over 80% dry. The water flow of the Bear River was only 10% of a normal year at the refuge. At Willard Bay the major fishery in the county, the water level was so low that by August a boat could not be launched.

During the fall hunts, the dry conditions put a lot of deer in the fields. I had several trespassing cases from hunters driving the roads and shooting deer in the farmer's fields. I also had increased ATV trespass problems from hunters being able to get around off the roads with ease. I did have one trespass on a CWMU involving a nice 23" buck deer.

Due to division budget problems, conservation officers took over some of the management of the Cooperative Wildlife Management Units. There are 52 CWMU's in the Northern Region. I was assigned to work three in my district. This included working with landowners on setting up the CWMU, getting the necessary signatures and working on the management plan. I was also involved in working on the management of Sharp-tail Grouse and Sage Grouse in my district. These two birds are on the states sensitive species list.



Rick Schulze
Brigham City District

Nearly two years after the incident the Box Elder County Attorney's office filed wanton destruction charges against Dan Lockwood, the Golden Spike CWMU operator. With the cooperation of the CWMU hunters and the eventual cooperation of one of the CWMU guides, Lockwood was compelled to plead 'no contest' to wanton destruction of trophy deer. The operator of the CWMU was guiding a renowned golfer and another hunter when both shot trophy class deer outside the boundaries of the CWMU.

The case began when individuals were observed outside CWMU boundaries apparently tracking blood and/or a deer. These people were later contacted at the CWMU bunkhouse where they had two buck deer. The spread on the antlers measured 28" and 34". Officers Pratt, Rees and I returned to the hillside where the hunters had been observed and found a gut pile outside the CWMU boundaries.

Officers Pratt, Ashcroft and I approached the four individuals present when the deer were killed - the CWMU operator, Dan Lockwood; a guide, Darren Birchell; and the hunters. They were at the hunters' private jet preparing for takeoff. From their statements neither knew the boundaries for the CWMU, nor had there been



any discussions regarding the boundaries. They trusted the operator to provide a legitimate hunt.

The hunters said they hid by a juniper tree along a barbed wire fence awaiting the bucks approach. When the bucks came up the hill from a CRP field they fired when instructed. Both deer had been shot outside the CWMU boundary.

The operator stated both deer were on the CWMU when the hunters shot them but one of the hunters deer ran off the CWMU after it was shot.

Initially, the county attorney's office was hesitant to file charges. There were concerns that the hunters might invoke the Fifth Amendment if subpoenaed because they might be potential defendants. The concerns were related to the cost of flying one or both of the hunters in and out for a preliminary hearing and a trial. Another concern was that a defense attorney could show the hunters were confused about where they said the deer were killed when they spoke with officers.

With Investigator Ashcroft's persistence, one of the hunters was convinced to return to the state to meet with officers. The hunter, an attorney representing both hunters, and the officers went out to the CWMU. The hunter indicated where they were situated when the shots were fired - confirming that both deer were shot outside the CWMU. Officers were assured the hunters would cooperate with the investigation.

Officer Hanchett became aware of the guide's willingness also to cooperate with investigators. Officer Liese continued the investigation by obtaining statements from the guide that the deer had been shot outside the CWMU boundaries.

With this information the county attorney's office filed wanton destruction charges against the CWMU operator who pled 'no contest' to the felony charges. The operator has several prior wildlife-related convictions in Utah and in at least one other western state. In this latest case, the judge ordered the operator, in addition to fines and jail time, to cease activities in fishing and hunting and to sell or close his business

related to fishing and/or hunting activities. Lockwood may yet be subject license revocation of to up to 14 years.



Kip King
Rich County / Bear Lake
District

In September 2003, during a doe antelope hunt, a concerned citizen called to report that he had found two antelope that had been poached. When I responded to the scene I discovered two dead antelope within 20' from each other. As I investigated the scene I discovered one of the antelope to be an adult doe and the other to be a fawn doe. I also discovered that the same bullet had killed both animals. The individual that had killed these animals had positioned himself on a ridge where he was able to make a clean shot at the adult antelope hitting it in the left shoulder. The bullet then passed completely through the adult killing it immediately. The bullet then struck the fawn that had been standing behind the adult. The presence of the fawn was possibly unknown to the hunter as the adult's body apparently concealed the fawn when the shot was taken. The bullet then grazed the top of the fawns head just enough to sever the skull and kill the fawn instantly. Both animals died immediately and the individual who shot the animals most likely knew that he had killed both antelope. Then, instead of taking responsibility for his actions, the suspect fled the scene and allowed both animals to spoil. The suspect then continued to hunt and kill another antelope.

This case and many others like it were investigated in the Rich County district in 2003.

Many hours were also spent dealing with big game depredation problems, CWMU applications and renewals, license agent visits, and various other aspects of the job that are not necessarily associated with law enforcement.





Jodi Becker
Morgan County District

In April of 2003, I transferred from Heber to the Morgan County district, replacing Scott McFarlane, who is currently the area biologist. Consequently, much of my patrol time was spent learning the area, which is almost entirely privately owned.

Due to the close proximity to the Wasatch front, public-owned lands and reservoirs are heavily utilized throughout the year. East Canyon and Lost Creek reservoirs, in addition to the Weber River, provide excellent fishing and recreational opportunities. Officer Pratt and I were able to use our kayaks to patrol the Weber River and Causey Reservoir throughout the summer. The seasonal influx of people provides many opportunities for wildlife enforcement as well as non-wildlife related crime.

The numerous Cooperative Wildlife Management Units bring a unique set of enforcement issues, such as trespassing and unlawful taking without the proper permit. Deseret Land and Livestock, the largest CWMU in the county, even employ their own security personnel to patrol. Subsequently, a number of big game cases are solved through cooperative investigations.

In December, I investigated a poaching case involving two individuals that shot a buck for the antlers. One of the individuals had been convicted of poaching a deer less than a year before and hadn't paid his fines from that case. Though the case won't be adjudicated until February, the county attorney stated the defendant will likely face substantial jail time.

At the close of 2003, I participated in "Operation Slither," a reptile poaching case initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Numerous officers from around the state were involved in the execution of four search warrants on Utah suspects.



Bruce Johnson
Summit County District

Lions, tigers, and bears oh my! No tigers, but 2003 was an interesting year. I responded to a possible mountain lion attack on a fisherman in Peoa. The fisherman walked into an area where he heard a mountain lion making noise. While fishing the Weber River the man noticed a mountain lion across the river. The fisherman began to run away and the mountain lion chased after him. The mountain lion knocked the fisherman down and then retreated. Animal Services and I responded to the scene where we destroyed two female mountain lions in that immediate area.

A 2002 investigation was concluded in 2003 with the seizure of a black bear rug. The bear rug was forfeited by the individual who illegally tagged the bear after being shot by another person.

Another 2002 investigation concluded with an individual losing his big game privileges for 14 years! He also lost his .300 rifle, two deer that he shot, and paid a total of \$8,200 in fines and restitution.

Drought continued to play a major role in wildlife management. In my district, the drought brought bears into campgrounds and residential areas. I relocated one bear and helped trap another bear in Summit County.

In 2003, I issued over 150 citations and conducted 42 investigations, which resulted in approximately 18 citations and 4 warnings. These cases could potentially yield 30 years worth of revoked privileges.



Larry Davis
Davis County District

It was another busy year in the Davis County district.



With five urban waters and three other major fishing areas, fishing took up the majority of patrol hours from early spring to late summer. An action plan for compliance was successful in uncovering a variety of problems and violations. All south area officers assisted in enforcement of fishing regulations, boating laws and local ordinances. With a high number of fish stocked and an increased number of fishermen, the violation rate has increased proportionally over past years.

Farmington Bay WMA and Howard Slough were the hot spots for waterfowl hunters in the Davis County area. Pintail, scaup and swan regulations were of special concern. The most flagrant violations constituted the take of pintails out of season, overlimits of scaup and taking of Tundra swans without permits. A sudden storm from the northwest in November brought in a variety of uncommon waterfowl species to the area. White-wing and Surf Scoters, Long-tail ducks, Ross's and Lesser Snow Geese, and three Mexican ducks were all found in the hunters bag. Few, if any, of the hunters were able to identify common species of waterfowl let alone the uncommon ones. Yellow leggs, grebes, curlews and even a common loon were found in the hunters' bag. Some still believe that "if it flies it dies at Farmington Bay." The shoot first and the wildlife officer will identify it later, is slowly changing.

U.S. Federal Agents John Neal and Vance Jurgens assisted on water patrols using a long shaft duck boat and airboat when needed. They contacted hunters who would normally not be checked in the blind and a variety of citations were issued. Waterfowl Biologist Rich Hansen of Farmington Bay, assisted in several overlimits of pintails and scaup while doing routine bag checks. Ranger Jeff Steele assisted in boating safety, brine shrimp and OHV patrols and helped monitor illegal hunting on Antelope Island throughout the year.

Brine shrimp harvest activity on the Great Salt Lake was down significantly. Several years of record harvests, less need for cysts abroad to raise prawns, increased overseas production of cysts and a large surplus of existing processed

cysts made harvesting uneconomical for many companies. Mergers of companies holding COR's and improved harvest and processing methods have significantly changed the industry.

Several companies were investigated for encroachment and improper filing of harvest reports. Two companies were cited for improper filing of daily harvest reports. One company was issued two citations for violating the closure of Hat Island while harvesting.



Kevan Penrose
North Cache District

The first day of the new year started with a call coming from a concerned citizen of a possible overlimit of elk by his neighbor. He had returned from a hunting trip with a huge amount of meat. It turned out that the hunter and four companions had purchased five ranch-raised buffalo in South Dakota. They showed me a receipt for the buffalo. A few calls later revealed they were telling the truth.

Many of the calls we get are unfounded or lack of evidence to reveal a suspect. These calls can be frustrating, but it's all part of the job.

One case actually started on November 5, 2002. I received a call from the Cache County sheriff's office about a suspicious incident. They received a report of a father and son who were late returning from a muzzleloader elk hunt on the Cache elk unit.

On November 6, 2002 about 00:30 hours the two hunters were spotted coming out of Blacksmith Fork Canyon. Blacksmith Fork Canyon is the boundary between a spike only and a general bull elk unit. The deputy stopped them and found a big six-point bull elk head in the back of their pickup. They reported to him that the rest of the elk was still on the mountain and they would be returning for it tomorrow.



I contacted the two at their home the next day and questioned them about the location of the elk carcass. They gave me a long story of their hunting trip on the general bull elk unit stating they had worked most of the night just to get the head out. I told them I would meet them at the location they described and would hike with them to the kill site.

They showed up about an hour after the time agreed upon. It was getting very dark, a large storm was moving in and it was now within an hour and a half of nightfall. They hiked up the mountain, but could not find the elk. I contacted them several times over the next week and told them at the very least there was a problem of wasting the animal. I told them I wanted to see the kill site even if we had to find it in the spring.

On November 13th I received a call from a local attorney that represented the two hunters. The attorney had set up a meeting with the Cache County attorney's office and asked me to be present. The meeting started with the son apologizing for lying about the whole incident. The son admitted to killing the big bull on the spike only unit. He asked for leniency, as he was about to graduate from Utah State University's College of Natural Resources.

In early January the suspect entered into a plea and abeyance with the Cache County attorney, which included a \$3,000 payment to the Help Stop Poaching Fund, loss of hunting privileges for 14 years, forfeiture of his rifle and 100 hours of service for the Cache County Hunter Education program. Sometimes it pays to be persistent and keep the pressure on.

Another interesting case occurred in July while I was patrolling the Logan River quality fishing area. I noticed a man put his fishing equipment in his car and run back across the road leaving his trunk open. I found a place to turn around and when I approached the vehicle the trunk was closed and the man was attempting to pull onto the highway.

I pulled up behind him and asked if he had caught fish to which he replied "no". His fishing gear was visible in the back seat. I asked if he

would mind opening his trunk. He opened the trunk and it was completely empty except for 12 nice cutthroat trout on a stick. He didn't have much to say as I wrote out his citation and seized the fish.

It was a long week but I really enjoyed working on EVO skills with all the other officers at Camp Williams. I have heard of several incidents where officers have avoided collisions using some of the skills they have learned at EVO training. If it saves one persons life or prevents personal injury, it is well worth our time. I appreciate having the greatest job in the world even though it can get frustrating.



Rick Olson
Sergeant

As a sergeant in the Northern Region I supervise six conservation officers in Davis, Morgan, Summit and Rich counties. (I had one officer district vacant this past year). In 2003 we investigated over 160 cases in our area, and responded to a myriad of public calls ranging from reports of injured or nuisance wildlife to persons committing felony crimes against wildlife.

During the summer I had the opportunity to work security at the "Rainbow Family Gathering", which occurred in the Uinta Mountains in Summit County. This was a unique experience and I had the opportunity to meet and work with some outstanding Forest Service officers from throughout the country. Our help was requested because we were familiar with the public land boundaries and private land issues, which could occur in the area. Some of the issues we dealt with ranged from trespass on private lands to felony possession of controlled substances. One could say you just haven't experienced everything in life until you've seen one of these gatherings.

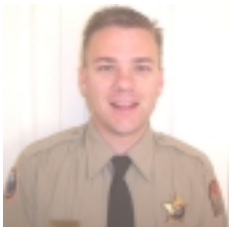
One of the bright spots this past year was the noticeable decline in the number of illegally taken moose from the previous year. On the opposite side of this was the noticeable increase



in the violations occurring during the waterfowl season on Farmington Bay. During just one weekend in November, DWR officers issued over 60 citations to individuals who violated the rules governing waterfowl hunting. Some of the violations encountered were wanton destruction of protected wildlife illegally taken without a license, unlawful taking of protected wildlife before or after legal shooting hours and unlawful taking of protected wildlife, wrong species.

One of the other areas we had compliance problems with was the newly developed Bountiful Lake. This is an urban fishery that was developed in cooperation with Bountiful City. The lake is heavily stocked with both trout and catfish. Because of its close proximity to a major urban population it receives very heavy angler use. An action plan was developed to address compliance issues noticed during 2002. Officers issued over 135 citations and warnings while working on this water.

I supervise a great group of dedicated officers. Working as a team, we have had many successful projects, which have helped fulfill our mission to protect the wildlife resource of this great state.



David Beveridge
Weber District

I am the Weber County conservation officer. I graduated from Utah State University in 1997 with a Bachelors degree in fisheries and wildlife management. After my university studies I attended POST at BATC in Logan and POST in Salt Lake City. As a newly sworn officer, I worked at Jordanelle State Park as an off-highway vehicle and boating officer. After four years as a park ranger, I transferred to Weber County as a conservation officer.

My duties up to now have consisted of training and learning the Weber County area. A lot of my time during the big game hunts was spent investigating dead elk and moose carcasses. I have learned a lot about wildlife law enforcement. At times I feel overwhelmed, but I

have had a lot of help from the employees of the Northern Region. The Weber County district provides a great opportunity to improve investigatory skills and I look forward to going to work each day.



Verl Hanchett
South Cache District

I graduated from USU in 1968 with a degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management. My first Conservation Officer assignment was Weber County until 1972, I then transferred to the Flaming Gorge district and worked there until 1976. In 1976 I transferred to Cache County. When I moved to Logan there were 55,000 people and now there are 110,000 and we still have two conservation officers - Imagine that!

This year I had the opportunity to go to Raton, New Mexico for the NRA Youth Hunter Education championships. It was one of the most enjoyable things I have had the opportunity of doing. Just seeing the young men and women compete was really neat. Thanks for the opportunity!

I had an interesting year. On one occasion, I had the opportunity to take a good friend on a goose hunt. As we all know generally when you go waterfowl hunting in Cache valley in December when it's below zero you should wear a warm pair of boots. I met Jerry about daylight and thought surely he would buy me breakfast, but I guess he was so excited to go he just forgot. Anyway, I brought a couple of white buckets to sit on and we put the decoys out. The next thing I knew I saw Jerry sitting on the bucket like an old man with shingles shivering. I asked what was wrong and he said his feet were cold - I wonder why when you have tennis shoes on. Rudy, please let Jerry buy a pair of winter boots. We didn't get a goose that day; we just got cold and had a very nice visit about mules. Jerry, I'm hoping that next year when we go again you will have a pair of good 'ole mule skinning insulated



boots. And someone, please buy him a box of steel shot.

In Cache County we spend a lot of our time just trying to put out fires. I would like to thank Rick, Kevan and Cory for all the help they have given

me over the past year. As we all know without good co-workers this job could be tough.

Many things have changed over the years. Some for the good and some for the not so good, but it's been fun. I've enjoyed working with all of you and look forward to another year.

Southeastern Region

Lieutenant Alan Green

Investigators: Roger Kerstetter
Ed Meyers

Sergeant Carl Gramlich
Conservation Officers
Kip Draper
Stacey Jones
Mike Milburn

Sergeant Ed Meyers
Conservation Officers
Vance Mumford
Randy Scheetz
Brian Shearer

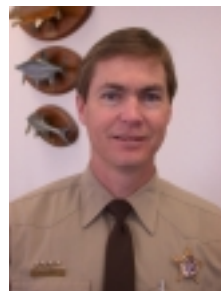


**Wanton Destruction Of Deer On the Bookcliffs
Winter Range**

of four suspects for the wanton destruction of deer in Utah. All of the deer were killed while on the winter range.

Four Colorado residents Ryan Hernandez, Jarrod Houck, Evan Stevens and Brison Cole were charged with nine counts of wanton destruction of deer in Utah, one count aiding and assisting in the wanton destruction of deer and two counts of attempting to take deer without a valid permit. The defendants were fined a total of \$4,440 and ordered to pay \$2,800 restitution. They were also sentenced to serve a combined sentence of 10 ½ years in the county jail. All the jail time was suspended upon payment of fines and restitution.

The initial investigation began from reports to the Colorado Division of Wildlife in Grand Junction about a local resident in possession of illegally taken deer. Colorado officers investigated and determined the deer had been killed in Utah. A coordinated investigation between Colorado and Utah resulted in the arrest



Alan Green
Lieutenant

I became the Lieutenant for the Southeastern Region in the summer of 2003, following 23 years as a conservation officer and



sergeant. The officers in our region are very dedicated and hard working, and I'm honored to be their Lieutenant.

The Southeastern Region begins about twenty miles north of Price and ends at the Navajo Reservation near Arizona and has two conservation officer crews. Sergeant Carl Gramlich supervises three officers on the north crew, and Sergeant/Investigator Edward Meyers supervises three officers on the south crew. Investigator Roger Kerstetter works out of the regional office in Price.

In 2003 officers in the region investigated over 200 cases, including over 70 deer cases, 57 elk cases, and 21 game fish cases. About one-sixth of the investigations were from Help Stop Poaching calls.

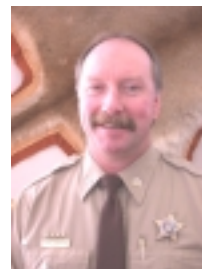
One noteworthy case involved a man hunting deer on a CWMU in San Juan County. He hunted for four days, killing three deer, wounding a fourth, and shooting at others. Officer Scheetz obtained a confession from the shooter and his father. Charges are pending. Officer Brent Olson, from the Southern Region, provided excellent assistance on this case.

Another important case that began in 2002 was solved in 2003; 11 or more deer were poached in the south Book Cliffs area during the fall and winter of 2002-2003. In the spring, Colorado wildlife officers notified us that they had some suspects for us in this case. Officers Gramlich and Milburn were able to obtain confessions from some Grand Junction residents to account for four bucks and one doe. Charges are pending.

The number of deer poached on both sides of the Colorado border prompted the divisions Southeastern and Northeastern regions to work cooperatively with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Both states scheduled extra patrols along the border in November and December, and especially in the Book Cliffs area. Patrols were done by aircraft as well as by truck. Because of the successful investigation (mentioned above) and the extra patrol work, deer poaching on Utah's south Book Cliffs

winter range was not a problem at the end of 2003.

In addition to law enforcement efforts, officers participated in important wildlife management work. Testing deer for chronic wasting disease was a priority in the region, and the officers spent over 150 hours collecting samples. Officers spent many additional hours handling wildlife depredation and nuisance complaints, doing wildlife surveys, speaking to hunter education students, and so on. I really appreciate the great work of the Southeastern Region officers.



Carl Gramlich
Sergeant

I was hired on July 13, 1981 as a conservation officer and completed my Salt Lake regional training tour by the end of September 1981. I was assigned to the Carbon/Price district just prior to the start of the deer hunt of 1981.

I went to POST in January of 1982 and successfully graduated in March of the same year. In December 1988, I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. I currently supervise three conservation officers who have districts in Carbon and Emery counties. The three officers and I are responsible for the law enforcement program as well as some biological responsibilities in the northern half of the Southeastern Region.

The summer and fall of 2003 proved to be just as busy as in past years. Officer Mike Milburn and I spent a part of several weeks in July conducting interviews with numerous poaching suspects from the Grand Junction area. These suspects were responsible for the poaching of several buck and doe deer in the Book Cliffs during November and December 2002. We got confessions from most of the suspects involved and charges are pending. The Colorado Division of Wildlife officers in Grand Junction generated



the initial information on this case that pointed in the direction of the suspects. They were an integral part of this investigation (as was the public who also provided information) and I want to thank them for their help.

The deer and elk seasons did not seem to produce the number of illegal kills as in past years possibly due to the warm, dry conditions. However, they were not without their problems. I conducted investigations into several deer and elk cases along with other officers that resulted in misdemeanor and felony wanton destruction charges being filed against suspects. These charges should result in heavy fines and restitution.



Vance Mumford
Moab District

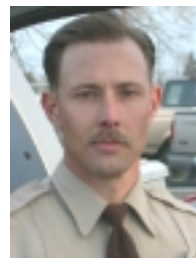
My name is Vance Mumford. I was hired in June 2003 as the conservation officer for the Moab district. While obtaining my Wildlife Management degree from Utah State University, I worked for USU in fisheries research and for the DWR in the Information and Education section in Salt Lake City. Prior to me being hired as a conservation officer, I spent four years as a State Park Ranger in Sanpete County.

The Moab district starts at the Book Cliffs Drainage divide and stretches south, along the Colorado border, through the La Sal Mountains to Lisbon Valley. My western boundary is the Green River. I have the opportunity to work in some of the most beautiful desert scenery in Utah, as well as high peaks of the La Sal Mountains. Within this large and varied district, there are many different wildlife species. The Colorado and Green Rivers have their own unique fish species. Large herds of elk and deer, along with pronghorn, Desert Bighorn Sheep, turkeys, and waterfowl all call the area home.

The last six months has been one big learning experience. I've learned that: Chronic Wasting Disease really does exist; that you really can

drive a truck across the Dolores River; and, that you can get really sick counting elk from a helicopter. Unfortunately, I have also learned that there is a real need for wildlife law enforcement. I have seen overlimits of fish, people shooting doe deer and leaving them to waste. I have reports of people shooting does and taking only their back straps for "camp meat." This last year, there were 12 resident, any bull elk tags given out during the draw for the La Sal Mountains. This fall there were half that many bulls illegally taken, that I know of! These illegal kills take away the opportunity for legal hunters, many of whom have been waiting years to hunt these large bulls. Fortunately, I have witnessed the majority of our sportsmen and women doing their best to follow wildlife laws. They recognize the need for the rules they are asked to obey and follow whether someone is watching them or not. I have had sportsmen anonymously report violations, and have had witnesses take valuable time out of their hunting day to ensure violators were held accountable.

An interesting and, I think, successful project I worked on this year was in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The past several years, both Colorado and Utah have experienced an increase in poaching on winter range areas along our border. The south Book Cliffs was one of the areas that suffered high losses last year. Starting in early November, both states significantly increased their law enforcement efforts in this area. Officers were brought in from other districts in Utah and Colorado. Patrols included marked and unmarked vehicles, day and night patrols, and the use of aircraft. I believe that this high level of presence has helped deter poaching there, as I have yet to get a report of an illegal kill this winter.



Ed Meyers
Investigator / Sergeant

As the sergeant/investigator for the southern half of the Southeastern Region, I supervise the Monticello, Moab and Bullfrog



conservation officers. In early 2003, I was selected to fill the Moab investigator position, which was modified to include supervisory responsibilities. My position is unique in that it combines the duties of supervisor and investigator. Officer Vance Mumford filled my officer position in Moab and I am also his field-training officer.

In 2003, I investigated 33 cases and assisted with numerous others. My cases involved the unlawful taking of trophy elk, cow elk, buck and doe deer, a river otter, furbearers, doves and other species. Many have or will result in class A misdemeanor and felony charges against the persons involved.

One notable case involved the unlawful taking of a trophy bull elk. The 6x7 bull, which was killed by a spike elk hunter on the La Sal Mountains, was left to waste. After an extensive investigation involving all of the officers on the southern crew, two suspects were located and several felony charges are pending.

The three officers on the southern crew investigated an additional 41 cases. Investigations were conducted on the unlawful taking of a golden eagle, numerous buck deer, a cougar, elk and other species. Several search warrants were obtained for residences, vehicles and people. Outstanding hard work and persistence on these cases resulted in numerous class B charges as well as a number of class A misdemeanor and felony charges.

I authored two cooperative law enforcement action plans. These action plans were developed to address winter range poaching on the Book Cliffs and statewide trapping violations. These plans are still underway as of this writing, but appear to be successful so far in deterring and apprehending violators in these areas.

In the fall, the southern crew and I conducted five administrative checkpoints. Three of the checkpoints were held on the La Sal and Abajo mountains during the general archery deer hunt. One checkpoint was conducted during the general rifle deer hunt in San Juan County and a final checkpoint was held during the bison hunt

on the Henry Mountains. Numerous hunters were contacted and a number of violations were detected. Officers have since received many positive comments on the checkpoints from the public.

We also assisted in the Chronic Wasting Disease sampling/monitoring effort in the southeastern region. Hundreds of samples were taken from deer and elk. We also assisted with many other programs including deer, elk, turkey, eagle and peregrine falcon population surveys. Numerous complaints were handled concerning bears, deer, elk, raccoons, rattlesnakes and other species.



Randy Scheetz
San Juan District

My name is Randall Scheetz and I am the conservation officer assigned to the San Juan district. This district covers the Blue Mountains, Elk Ridge and the surrounding area in San Juan County. In 2003, I worked on a number of projects dealing with depredation and nuisance, disease assessment in deer, data collection and law enforcement.

During January and February a lot of time was devoted to wildlife surveys and law enforcement dealing with furbearers and mountain lions. San Juan County has some of the highest harvest numbers for both bobcats and mountain lions.

During the spring and summer a significant amount of time was devoted to enforcing laws related to fishing activities. Hours were spent not only in my district but a number of other areas, including Lake Powell and Scofield Reservoir.

During the late summer and fall a significant number of hours were spent on black bear nuisance complaints. This included removing and relocating bears from orchards, campgrounds and within the city limits of Monticello.



During the months of August through October a significant amount of time was spent collecting CWD samples for testing. Most of these samples were collected from hunters while acquiring harvest data and during enforcement activities.

The fall and winter was an extremely busy time for law enforcement activities. A number of mule deer cases were made this year. One notable case involved the wanton destruction of three mule deer. An individual had obtained a single Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit permit through the draw. While hunting to fill his tag the individual harvested three deer and wounded another over the course of one week. This individual, along with two others that assisted him, are awaiting adjudication for the wanton destruction of three deer.



Brian Shearer
Bullfrog District

Low lake levels greeted the start of the fishing season at Lake Powell for 2003. This was my third season at Lake Powell and quite different from the previous two. Changing ramp conditions and low lake levels kept many fishermen and boaters away. In the past, patrols started at Hite marina at the north end of the lake where fishing started to pick up in March. The Hite ramp was an improvised dirt ramp with few boaters who would use it; therefore, all of the patrols were from Bullfrog Marina. By June the Hite Marina closed for the season and even the river runners had to float the lake to Halls Marina to pull their boats. The law enforcement effort for Lake Powell saw longer patrols needed to find the fewer fishermen present on the lake.

During the peak fishing in the spring, much of the work done at Lake Powell was done by law enforcement personnel from the Southeastern Region. Officers that worked the lake included: Kip Draper, Carl Gramlich, Alan Green, Stacey Jones, Ed Meyers, Randy Scheetz and Justin Shirley, who was the only out-of-region officer to work the lake in 2003. Striped bass conditions

improved with fat healthy fish. The boils started in August and ended in September. Law enforcement contacts and citations also increased with the boils

The limited entry deer hunt on the Henry Mountains has become well known for big bucks. All of the hunters contacted reported seeing plenty of big ones. The only reported illegal harvest occurred during the bison hunt in November where a large buck was shot and antlers removed. Two suspect vehicles were seen in the area and there is an ongoing investigation.

During the fall Investigator Roger Kerstetter and I investigated an illegal trapping of a golden eagle. This case took considerable time and effort that involved tracking the individual on several occasions and comparing two separate trap lines. The case culminated in a search warrant that produced the evidence needed in the case.

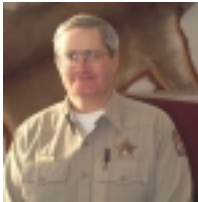


Stacey Jones
Carbon District

This past year has continued to be busy on the North Manti. I've been the district conservation officer in Price for six years, and it has not slowed down. Heavy pressure from the Wasatch Front has kept me jumping on everything from closed waters violations in the spring to numerous trespass complaints and illegal elk harvest in the fall and winter. In May, two subjects were apprehended in the wanton destruction of protected wildlife while fishing in closed waters in Upper Fish Creek, which is a valuable spawning area for Scofield's cutthroat trout. A horseback patrol proved a valuable tool in the timely apprehension of the subjects who had been repeatedly told by several groups in the area that the streams were closed to fishing. The two subjects hiked several miles upstream, proceeded to catch several large spawning cutthroat, and then abandoned the fish along the stream. The subjects pled guilty and were fined approximately \$1,500 for their abuse of the resource. Wanton waste of wildlife also continues during the popular antlerless elk hunts



in the winter. Two elk hunters are currently pending adjudication in the recent overlimit of cow elk, where they harvested two “extra” cow elk and allowed them to go to waste. The suspects were identified following a detailed investigation and are now facing felony wanton destruction of protected wildlife charges. Both of these wanton destruction cases were developed with initial information of illegal activity provided by concerned sportsmen in the field. Now with the new Harvest Objective Cougar hunts, the North Manti is proving very popular for cougar hunters and has kept me busy through the winter months. This diversified area is a great district to live in, and with a great crew to work with, it makes it even more enjoyable to go to work each day.



Mike Milburn
East Carbon District

I have now been with the Division for over 17 years serving in various assignments. I am now the conservation officer for the East Carbon district, a position I’ve held twice before. In 1978, I came to Carbon County at the beginning of my career after having worked in the Salt Lake office as an Information Specialist. In the 1980’s I worked as a police officer, sergeant and detective with the East Carbon city and Price city police departments.

Many changes have occurred since the late 1970’s. Much of the coal mining has shifted to other mines and many of the mines are now closed. The cities of East Carbon and Sunnyside have seen population changes and fluctuations in employment. Deer numbers are significantly lower now than they were in 1978. On the bright side, the elk herd introduced to the area in the early 1980’s has done well and many opportunities are available to hunters.

Two incidents from the past fall’s hunting season that highlight the importance of making sure of

your target while hunting. In the first case, a local hunter shot and killed a mature bull elk on the opening day of the general deer season. The hunter told me he mistook the antlers of the bull elk for a large deer in the high brush. He fired one shot and struck the bull in the neck, killing it instantly. He did the right thing and contacted the local Department of Public Safety dispatcher and asked to speak with me. However, he made a grave mistake when he neglected to field dress the bull so it would not spoil. By the time I reached the scene to conduct the investigation, the bull was not fit for human consumption and could not be salvaged. This hunter was cited for accidentally killing the bull, but he also received a citation for allowing the bull to spoil. His combined fine and restitution was \$1,500. If the hunter had abandoned the bull elk without reporting the mistake, he could have been charged with a felony level offense if someone else reported the case.

In the other incident, a hunter seeking a cow elk in a late fall season shot and killed a mature bull elk. This hunter also did the right thing by calling and reporting his mistake. He later told me he mistook the bull for a cow because it was standing on a hillside with many bushes and shrubs behind it. He thought the antlers were branches. In this instance, the hunter and his companion did field dress the elk and it was donated to a needy Carbon County family. The hunter received a Class B misdemeanor citation that will probably be handled with a fine and possible restitution.

In both cases, the hunters knew they should contact the Division and report their mistakes. If they had walked away and abandoned the animals, someone else’s report would have subjected the men to felony charges and lengthy revocation periods. Hunters need to make sure of their targets and exercise sound judgment while in the field. Even the misdemeanor charges can result in substantial fines and can add up to a very costly mistake.



Southern Region
Lieutenant Scott Dalebout
Investigators: Kent Rawley
Sean Davis

Sergeant Dennis Kay
Conservation Officers
Brent Christensen
Brent Farnsworth
Wade Hovinga
Hal Stout
Jason Teegarden

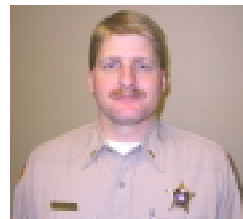
Sergeant Torrey Christophersen
Conservation Officers
Fred Pannunzio
Jim Lamb
Brent Olson



Trophy Deer Poached At Night In Millard County

Conservation Officer Brent Olson conducted an investigation into the unlawful taking of this 7x7 trophy buck deer. The suspect claimed to have killed it with his bow and arrow on the Boulder Mountains. After a thorough investigation, Officer Olson revealed the suspect killed this

large deer in Millard County at night with a .22 caliber rifle. The suspect later confessed and was convicted of wanton destruction of protected wildlife. He was sentenced to pay \$8,000 restitution and served 20 days in the Millard County Jail. The suspect has also been placed on license suspension for ten years.



Scott Dalebout
Lieutenant

2003 was extremely busy in the Southern Region, as it was for the rest of the state. The region successfully handled 486 cases, which involved many instances of wanton destruction of big game species, trophy animals and threatened/endangered species. This accounts for nearly one third of the cases in the state. Many of these are still being followed-up because of their complexity.

We are doing our best to deal with budget and manpower shortages, which plague the rest of the state as well. At the current time, the region is down six conservation officers. This is incredibly taxing on the region as well as the resource. With the consistent dedication and professionalism of the officers, the region will surely weather the storm.

The most notable accomplishments in the region include the tremendous teamwork demonstrated



by the officers with each other as well as other branches of the government, and especially the citizens of the State of Utah. The officers in the region worked jointly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on several cases including a multi-year investigation involving the unlawful taking of a Bison from the Henry Mountains. In addition, the two agencies combined efforts on a situation involving the death of several raptors in water tanks in the west desert. Finally, excellent teamwork was exhibited on a case involving the unlawful destruction of prairie dog habitat in Iron County.

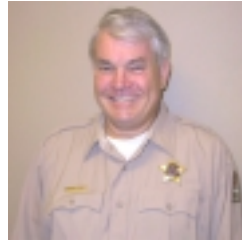
A few other noteworthy cases in the region included the successful prosecution of a case involving the wanton destruction of a trophy deer in the Millard County area. The animal was shot with a rifle at night during the archery deer hunt. The defendant in the case was ordered to pay \$8,000 restitution and serve 20 days in jail.

Another case involved the wanton destruction of a bald eagle in Kane County. The animal was killed with a .22 caliber firearm. Disposition on this case is still pending.

In addition, a case involving the wanton destruction of two deer was completed on a CWMU in the northern part of the region. These two deer were illegally taken during the archery deer hunt. One of the deer was a very large trophy class animal. Disposition on this case is still pending.

Finally, a case involving the wanton destruction of a trophy deer on a CWMU in the southern part of the region in 2002 was adjudicated. The defendant was ordered to pay \$5,000 restitution.

Concerned citizens who treasure the natural resources provide most of our cases. We could not be successful without the help of these citizens.



Brent Olson
Fillmore District

In September I was 99% certain I was going to retire at the end of 2003. However, the one percent said “no not unless you have another full time job.” I knew my wife was serious when she kept showing me the Help Wanted ads. Getting called out at 2:00 a.m. to remove a dead elk off the freeway, doing ULEIN and being lied to day after day still beats being a greeter at Wal-Mart.

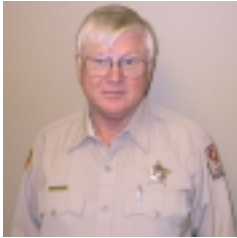
One noteworthy case I was involved with occurred in Randy Scheetz’s district. The suspects lived in Millard County and Randy needed my help in locating and interviewing the hunters. Randy was certain the son with help from the father, had killed at least two and maybe more deer illegally. Randy was relentless in pursuing the case. He gathered evidence and interviewed several individuals in his district. Randy came to Delta to conduct one interview and I conducted three interviews with the father until he finally admitted he had lied about the entire incident. This was a case of long-distance teamwork resulting in the suspects getting caught.

I have definitely become more cynical this past year. There seems to be an increasing number of cases where individuals, even in face of solid evidence, would rather lie than admit to doing wrong. The cases that bother me the most involve the three-hour Sunday saints. They profess one standard of morality and then look you straight in the eye and lie, lie, lie.

On the other hand, my faith in the local sportsmen is renewed when they report violations. I have been trying to arrest two brothers from Holden for years for poaching both deer and elk. This year one individual came forward with enough information to convict Jeff Gates of poaching a trophy deer. Gates killed the deer on the archery hunt by shooting the deer with a rifle at night.



I remember a time when I was just a “kid game warden” and the old guys were the “Thomas brothers, Fats, BC, Old Blue and others.” They are now retired and many have passed on and now I am one of the old guys.



Brent Christensen
Circleville District

It's a good assignment to get one to think about the past year. I decided that the biggest thing I did was drive my truck 30,000 miles. So you get what you get. Here it is.

This past Christmas I was helping Santa hand out candy. We were in the City Building and two small boys, standing in line, were looking at the city's rotary dial phone. I heard one of them say to the other, "that is a telephone, but I don't know how to make it work."

That started me thinking when I started working all phones were rotary dial, calculators were the size of a desk and computers were the size of a house. My two-wheel drive truck had a three-channel radio. I knew conservation officers that did not carry any kind of a firearm in their truck. Now I am issued three and am concerned about the effectiveness of my body armor.

I remember when a hunter had a hard time seeing an elk in the one elk hunt and unit I had. This past year the 13 elk hunts in my area produced bulls scoring over 400 Boone & Crockett points off all four units. I remember when big bucks were everywhere then nowhere, then only on the Paunsaugunt and now, even with our declining deer numbers there are a few big bucks everywhere again. I remember fur prices being low, high, low, and now high again.

I remember when the big game proclamation was one page not 100 pages long.

I remember older men trying to supervise me; now men that were not even born when I started to work try to supervise me. I remember running

because it was a fun way to get from here to there. Now - don't ask. I remember when about 60 officers patrolled the whole state, oh, yah, we still do it with the same number. Well, back to the original assignment. What did I do last year? This may be one of the few constant things in my life. I made life more miserable for the bad guy and better for the good guy.



Brent Farnsworth
Beaver District

I am in my 26th year in the Beaver district. This is a large district, which includes all of Beaver County. It ranges from the high desert floors of the Great Basin to high alpine meadows and mountain peaks over 12,000 feet in elevation. There are huntable populations of elk, deer, pronghorn antelope, and mountain goats. This district has a reputation for producing record book elk and mountain goats. Numerous small game species, as well as cougar and bear, are also found here. Over a dozen lakes populated with rainbow, cutthroat, brown, and brook trout are found on the Tushar Mountains east of Beaver and Minersville Reservoir. This reservoir is located west of Beaver and is known for trophy rainbow trout. With a scattering of furbearers and waterfowl, the district attracts hunters, anglers, trappers, off-road vehicle enthusiasts, and many other recreation users. Boredom is not in my vocabulary.

This past year has had some low points. The deer population has diminished following several years of drought. Kent's Lake has experienced substantial summer fish kills and Minersville Reservoir was entirely drained due to low water conditions. I have witnessed these cycles several times in my career and know that things will get brighter in the future. The deer herd will come back and as water returns to the lakes, so too will the trout.

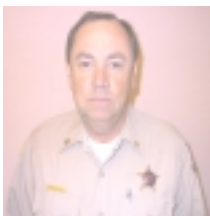
On the bright side, the elk population is doing well and several record book bulls were taken on the Beaver and Southwest Desert elk units. The



mountain goat population is at an all-time high and several record book billies have been taken.

In 2003 I conducted 17 investigations. With a reduction in some of the resource, violations in the district also diminished, however, this did not result in a reduced workload. With officer vacancies in several of the surrounding districts, I spent many days filling in to handle problems and assist with patrolling these areas. Working ice-fishermen on Fish Lake, patrolling streams closed to protect spawning trout at Paragonah and Yankee Meadow Reservoirs, enforcing special fishing regulations on Kolob Reservoir, and patrolling the east slope of the Boulder Mountains for illegal deer hunting were some of the out of district projects.

One of the major projects conducted in the Beaver district this year was to address a problem of hunters straying across the Nevada/Utah State line, especially during the deer and elk seasons. I put together an action plan to produce unprecedented coverage of this area. Hunters in this remote area are accustomed to meeting few other individuals and don't expect to be checked very often. I spent several days prior to the big game seasons placing signs and marking the state line. Signs were placed on all roads crossing the state line and two burns intersecting the state line, which are heavily used by elk, were flagged and signed along its entire length. Patrols were conducted by several officers once or twice weekly during the various elk and deer hunts, especially in those areas that have been abused in the past. Due to increased coverage, the state line being more easily identified and additional people contacted there were fewer problems along the state line in western Beaver County this year. Projects such as this can greatly reduce violations in specific areas and are an important part of the statewide law enforcement program.



Dennis Kay
Sergeant

As the sergeant for southwest Utah wildlife enforcement, this year has been memorable for a

number of reasons. We have had to deal with coverage for vacant districts for a number of reasons throughout the year. Responding to increased demands for time with a smaller cadre of officers promises to be even more challenging during the coming year. I give the highest praise to the conservation officers working the four-county area of Garfield, Kane, Iron and Washington. I commend their willingness to respond to problems whenever and wherever needed as well as the willingness to work as long as needed to solve the problem. Their innovative and effective efforts have led to a number of accomplishments for wildlife law enforcement.

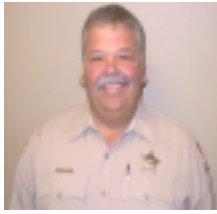
One of the most successful efforts has been the use of signs in problem areas. This educates and reminds hunters and fishermen of regulations for the area and activity they are participating in. Not only has this had the expected effect of directly reducing violations, we have also found that people have been more responsive in reporting violations they observe in the area.

Two wanton destruction of deer cases which were worked during the fall of 2002 led to investigations into dozens of Arizona residents for illegally purchasing resident Utah licenses and permits. The final reckoning of violations is not yet in, as many of these cases are just being completed. It appears that a total of approximately four-dozen people will be charged with residency violations.

Several years worth of efforts promoting better compliance with regulations designed to improve the quality of fishing at Kolob Reservoir appear to be working. The violation rate and number of violations reported from this renowned lake have declined dramatically this year.

This is not to say that all the problems are resolved. With your support we will labor to solve all the problems. Realizing that even though this will not ensue, we will continue to aspire to this valiant purpose.





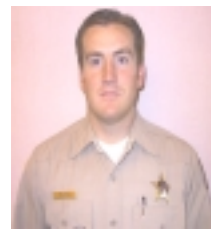
Fred Pannunzio
Richfield District

2003 turned out to be a unique year for me, in the Salina District. The Richfield district and the area biologist positions have been vacant for some time now and the extra work has kept things busy. These two conservation officer districts are located in central Utah and supervised out of the Southern Region located in Cedar City. The districts are vast taking in parts of three national forests, with a wide variety of game threw out the entire two districts. A patrol week would take in several different things (with wildlife law enforcement being top priority): nuisance calls, game counts; nongame surveys; I&E programs; and the main part of our job, assisting other law enforcement agencies in Sevier County with DUI's, domestic violence, and just as a backup in a traffic stops. This year I have had 31 different cases called into the HSP line, the local dispatch or myself involving all kinds of wildlife violations. Among those were illegal bear baiting, poisoning of Twin Creeks, wanton destruction felonies on elk. Other cases involved written citations and warnings associated with action plans, and discretionary patrols. Enforcement of crimes against wildlife is interesting hard work, and very self-satisfying.

The hunts in 2003 started with a case involving a suspect who had drawn a 2003-bear permit (archery). The suspect chose to set up a bait station without registering it, as the law requires. After positioning a camera at the illegal bait station on opening day of the hunt, the film revealed several bears at his station with one particularly large bear. He decided to proceed with the hunt during the weekend without a permit. (He planned to obtain a bear-baiting permit the first of the week). Sunday, the next day, the large bear showed up at the station where the suspect shot and killed it. The next day he tried to have the bear checked in using another bait station that was properly registered. However he made a couple of mistakes along the

way and after a lengthy investigation he was charged with illegally taking protected wildlife.

A second interesting case involved a suspect who shot and killed a trophy bull elk on a limited entry unit without a permit. The case is still under investigation but the suspect shot a 6-point bull elk cut the head off and buried the rest of the body, then took the antlers and had a European skull mount made. This case is close to being completed with a 3rd degree felony charge of wanton destruction and a couple of class B's.



Hal Stout
Kanab District

I'm the Kane County district conservation officer and am assigned to cover approximately 4,373 square miles. The terrain ranges from mountains above 10,000' to desert as low as 3,700' in elevation. A variety of wildlife exists in this area including cougar, bear, Desert Bighorn Sheep, elk, antelope and mule deer. The district includes the Paunsaugunt, a world-renowned premium mule deer unit and the southern half of Lake Powell.

One noteworthy case of 2003 began when a concerned citizen reported a dead bald eagle.

On March 11th, I investigated the dead eagle and determined that it had been shot. There was very little evidence at the scene and no leads regarding a suspect in the case. I wrote a newspaper article that appeared in several newspapers, describing the situation and requesting help from the public. I also spoke at the local high school and requested assistance in the case.

In October, informants contacted me with information regarding a suspect in the case. Interviews were conducted and confessions were obtained from the shooter and the two individuals that were with him at the time. Felony and class B misdemeanor charges were subsequently filed making a clear statement that



poor behavior of this type will not be tolerated by the citizens of Kane County.

Without the help of concerned citizens wildlife law enforcement would be a very overwhelming task. Thanks to concerned citizens, poachers should always be looking over their shoulders and should learn to expect a knock on their door from a game warden.



John Schijf
St George District

The drought was probably the biggest factor affecting the St. George district last year. Most of the major reservoirs were puddles by the middle of summer. The deer hunt was also very hot and dry, and success among local hunters was poor.

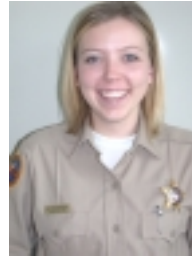
The drought directly resulted in a significant fish kill in the Santa Clara 20, miles north of St. George. After the investigation it was determined that low water levels and warm temperatures killed 100-200 brown trout.

Despite the drought, the urban ponds in St. George maintained good water levels and large numbers of fishermen of all ages enjoyed the resource. However, there was still a major compliance problem, almost 33% of fishermen did not have a license.

There was a fair share of reptile activity, I investigated three tortoise cases, a rattlesnake case and was called on a number of Gila Monsters.

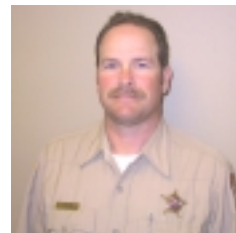
There has been an upsurge in trapping activity locally. Most of the problems I experienced, however, involved trappers having traps stolen.

As mentioned earlier the deer hunt was slow, however I did encounter a number of untagged deer and one case where a hunter killed a deer out of the unit.



Jennifer Murray
Zion District

This year has been a great year. I have enjoyed being in Washington County. This last spring I had an opportunity to work side by side with a very wise man, Gary McKell. I really learned a lot from him and thoroughly enjoyed working with him for the couple of months I was able to. I still rely on him heavily for advice and he's a great support and friend. I spent most of my summer at Kolob Reservoir. Although violations are a given there on almost any day I would have to say, or as Gary would say, "It looks promising." The fall hunts were a lot of fun to work. The Zion Unit had its first year as a five-day hunt. Everyone spent a lot of time helping to get signs up and notify the public of the change. The signs worked and we did not have a single complaint of late hunters. I work with great people in the Southern region, and a great crew. All in all it was a very good year.



Jim Lamb
Loa District

Sometimes crime doesn't pay!

In 1992 a person was arrested in my district for illegally killing an elk. This person spent a few weekends in jail, paid fines and lost some personal items that were confiscated by the court.

There have been numerous reports over the years prior to this arrest that this person poached game on a regular basis and was proud of that fact.

A cooperative investigation was launched over two years ago between the Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Division of Wildlife Resources for bison poaching by this same subject. Over the course of this investigation it appeared that the subject was



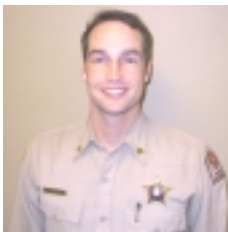
going to get away with it. The subject's habits did not change over this time period, and in fact they may have gotten bolder by the seeming lack of prosecution.

In the fall of 2003, after much effort, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought charges against the subject for the illegal activities involving the bison.

Coincidentally, near the same time in 2002 the Division filed charges involving an elk in a different area in 2002.

This subject will pay over \$5,000 in fines and spend seven months confined for the cooperative bison investigation. The penalties in the 2002 elk case have not been set yet.

When a team works together for the common good of the sportsmen and sportswomen of our state. . . sometimes crime doesn't pay.



Torrey Christophersen
Sergeant

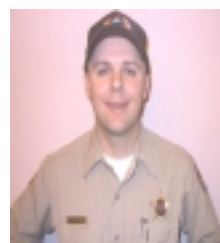
This past year has been very busy. I am currently stationed in the Richfield area. I supervise five other conservation officers in this area and the surrounding five counties. These officers are all outstanding and truly dedicated to their jobs. It has been a pleasure to see law enforcement cases come together with these officers this past year, and I am grateful to be able to help these outstanding defenders of Utah's wildlife.

Besides helping the above-mentioned officers, I personally have had over 50 cases that have been generated by either Help Stop Poaching calls, concerned local citizens, or through patrol work. Some cases of interest include an investigation into several individuals hunting buck deer on a Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU), who did not possess permits to do so. This case is still under investigation, but several felony violations and multiple misdemeanor

charges are pending. Another case I just wrapped involved teenage boys using a truck to harass and run over a large buck deer for fun. The major break in this case came because an informant had heard the suspects bragging to friends at school.

I enjoy the life style and commitment to the life of a game warden. As a modern conservation officer, this past year I have responded not only to the every day law enforcement aspect of wildlife management, but to information and education sessions with grade school children, assisting other law enforcement agencies in the area, helping to suppress forest fires that jump up, teaching scout groups about the environment around them, counting animal populations to determine health and status, retrieving injured animals, helping detect wildlife diseases and monitor for such pathologies, and a whole myriad of other duties described in the job contract as "other duties as assigned!"

The life of a conservation officer is very rewarding and it brings great satisfaction to me to help defend Utah's wildlife resources. The "thin green line" that represents the order of people that dedicate their lives to wildlife protection and enhancement is truly awe-inspiring. I am proud serve the citizens and wildlife resources of this great state, but to serve with the dedicated individuals who comprise the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources!



Wade Hovinga
Panguitch District

My name is Wade Hovinga. I've worked for the division as a conservation officer for six years. I started my career in the Manila district and transferred to the Panguitch district in Garfield County in 2001.

The Panguitch district encompasses a large amount of Garfield County, stretching from Panguitch Lake to Escalante. Included in this district is the summer range for the Paunsaugunt



deer herd. This area has its share of trophy elk hunting units, including the Panguitch Lake, Paunsaugunt and Mt. Dutton.

Many poaching cases arise from the Panguitch district. Garfield County is incredibly resource rich with wildlife. Whether it's trout, turkeys, or trophy elk, this area has its fair share of poaching. With such large geographic areas to patrol, Conservation officers need the help of all sportsmen to identify and report wildlife crime.

2003 proved to be a busy year for illegal activity. The Pausaugunt and Mt. Dutton both saw many trophy animals taken illegally. Some only had their antlers removed, and some were shot and never walked up to. In all cases in 2003, the meat from these animals was left to waste. 2004 is already proving to be a busy year. Have a safe hunting season.

CENTRAL REGION

Lieutenant Jack Topham

Investigator: Kent Rawley

Sergeant Scott White
Conservation Officers

Troy Hammond
Ray Loken
Brad Probst
Mike Roach
Dave Swenson

Sergeant Howard Jacquart
Conservation Officers

Joe Abbott
Shawn Bagley
Brad Bradley
Matt Briggs
Paul Davis
Vic Layton
Justin Shirley



California Hunters Purchasing Utah Resident Licenses

Investigator Jerry Schlappi conducted an investigation into the unlawful purchase of resident licenses by non-residents. Investigator Schlappi determined that three California men, Roger Van Duzer, Robert Spencer and John Oneil had all illegally purchased resident licenses in Utah. Christopher Van Duzer who was from Florida also was purchasing resident licenses in Utah. Since 1999 the group had purchased 31 resident licenses and illegally killed 22 deer and elk. Some of the animals were recovered when a search warrant was served at Spencer's residence. Investigator Schlappi received information that a lot of the animals were not killed by the person who's tag eventually went on the animal. One five point bull elk was illegally killed in a spike only area.



Most of the illegal animals were killed in the Tabiona area on United Sportsmen property and some were killed on both the Sand Creek CWMU and Moon's Ranch CWMU. All four defendants have been submitted for license revocation.



Jack Topham
Lieutenant

In September, I accepted the position of Lieutenant in the Central Region after having worked the past 22+ years as an Investigator, a job I enjoyed immensely. The Central Region saw several other personnel changes in 2003.

- Sergeant Kevin Cherry retired after 28 years of service.
- Conservation Officer Jodi Peck transferred from the Central Region, and took a new assignment in Morgan County.
- Investigator Kent Rawley, Salt Lake County, transferred to the Southern Region, as an Investigator
- Lieutenant Howard Jacquart became Sergeant of the Central Region, south crew; and
- Conservation Officer Jerry Schlappi accepted the Central Region Investigator position.

The vacancies left by Officers Peck and Rawley in the Central Region have not been filled, thus leaving us short handed.

2003 was a busy year for Central Region officers. We received a record number Help Stop Poaching reports, 77 in October alone. As a result of our officers' quick response, good investigative skills and diligent hard work, many of these cases were solved. One suspect in particular, was charged with several counts of "wanton destruction" of "trophy deer" and pleading "guilty" to the charges. The suspect was ordered by the Court to pay a fine and

restitution for the "trophy deer", which was several thousand dollars. In the end, the suspect could lose his hunting privileges for the next 28 years.

The officers in the Central Region also participated in an intensive action plan at Strawberry Reservoir. The action plan was an effort to bring compliance to the new regulations limiting the size and number of cutthroat trout fishermen are allowed to keep. This action plan involved regular patrols, several saturation patrols, and two roadblocks. Many citations were issued, and as a result, we are seeing improved compliance to the new regulations and the quality of the fishery is improving.

The officers have also been busy helping other sections, especially Wildlife Management, dealing with nuisance wildlife problems. The Salt Lake County officers have dealt with numerous moose, elk, deer and cougar problems, and many of the other officers have had their hands full dealing with depredating elk.

2003 was a busy year and our officers have done a great job!



Dave Swenson
Jordanelle District

The Jordanelle district encompasses southwest Summit County including Park City and the Snyderville Basin. It also includes north Wasatch County including Jordanelle Reservoir, upper Provo River, Woodland, and Mill Hollow Reservoir.

I have worked as a conservation officer for 25 years; the last 11 have been in the Jordanelle district.

This district is diverse, but a lot of my time is spent enforcing fishing regulations on Jordanelle Reservoir and the middle and upper sections of the Provo River.



I have seen the human population increase dramatically so I spend a lot of time attempting to resolve human/wildlife conflicts. This usually involves moose. I respond to about one moose complaint per week.



Ray Loken
Salt Lake District

I have been a district officer in Salt Lake County for about thirteen years now. It's true that an urban district may lack some of the scenic vistas found in the more exotic locations around the state but at least there's never a lack of anything to do.

During the spring of 2003 there were not the usual number of "moose in town" calls but still a substantial number of dead and injured deer. Unlike a rural area, animal carcasses in the city barely stop skidding on the pavement before someone calls in demanding to have them removed. After thirteen years I've become rather adept at removing carcasses from the roadways and am proud of the many laughs I've provided my coworkers when I lose my lunch over particularly pungent ones in the summer. It was also the "year of the cougar in town calls."

We had a lion in a tree at a house in Cottonwood Heights, one in a garage in Taylorsville, another under a trailer in West Jordan, and the media favorite was a sighting in Riverton. The Riverton cat had every television station in the state on site. Numerous division personnel (at great personal risk) began a drive to push the cat into range of the tranquilizing rifle. When the animal finally broke cover we all got a good laugh when it turned out to be a big yellow house cat. It got more coverage than the legitimate lions.

When I wasn't handling nuisance wildlife calls, I was working any of several popular fishing holes in the Salt Lake Valley. Willow Pond in Murray proved to be the most productive and I wrote tickets for no licenses, overlimits, using two

poles, and alcohol violations. I also patrolled the Jordan River using a mountain bike and checked numerous fishermen in the local canyons and at Silver Lake in Brighton.

The fall hunting season provided needed relief from checking fishermen. Although hunting opportunities are diminishing in Salt Lake County there is still plenty of illegal activity going on. Jason Teegarden and I worked a case where two hunters with doe tags for the Currant Creek area went out with the agreement to party hunt to ensure they didn't come home empty handed. In the end they both killed two deer each and then ditched two when they found out they were being investigated. They've since confessed and are yet to be tried. The development of an online course for archery hunters utilizing the Wasatch Front extended hunt proved its worth as evidenced by the significant decline in HSP calls for this hunt.

In between the hunting and fishing were lots of talks with hunter education classes, school career days, scout groups, ride-a-longs, media contacts, etc. Salt Lake County isn't High Uintas or Canyonlands but at least I never get bored.



Matt Briggs
North Sanpete

I had a busy and productive year working on various cases. The most entertaining case started on Thursday October 16, 2003. I met the security person for Aspen Hills Homeowners' Association, Mr. Rose, to look for a small buck that someone shot several days earlier. We located the deer and collected the evidence we could find.

As I was preparing to leave, Mr. Rose asked if I had time to drive to another location where homeowners had complained about hearing a lot of gunfire.

We drove to the east end of Aspen Loop Road to a clearing where logs were stacked. We followed a small road around the log pile into a camp



situated out of sight in the trees. I had been in the area several times and hadn't seen the camp before. Mr. Rose told me it belonged to one of the better-known bandits in Sanpete County. We drove into the camp and contacted two hunters, Joe* and Mike*, who were sitting by the campfire. (*Names changed to protect the guilty.)

While talking to the hunters I noticed two-buck deer heads on top of a camper set up on the ground. The heads appeared to be fresh and I asked the hunters about them. Both denied any knowledge of the two heads. Before spending time to look around the camp, I unloaded the two rifles lying on the hood of Mike's truck.

I asked to see their hunting licenses, but only Mike could produce one. After showing me a valid license, Mike sat down and ate lunch. He didn't say or do anything while I looked around camp. Joe became very agitated, drank a fourth can of beer, and got upset that someone was "between him and his weapon." Mr. Rose, a certified police officer was standing between Joe and the rifles.

I noticed a small tent at the camp, looked inside and found a pair of bloody pants. While walking to my truck to get my camera, I also noticed blood on the car belonging to Joe. The blood was on the roof, back window, trunk, and right rear quarter panel and rear bumper. I asked about the blood and was told that Joe had cleaned two Blue Grouse on the vehicle. He had started cleaning them on the roof. They then slid off the roof, down the back window, and onto the trunk. I asked to look in the trunk and the hunter appeared to cooperate until he "accidentally" broke the key off in the lock.

I photographed and collected the heads and bloody pants and left the camp to meet Officer Bradley at the gate into the cabin area. I talked with Officer Bradley for a few minutes and drove back to the camp. Both hunters were gone. I thought I had all routes out of the cabin area covered, but obviously I didn't. I called the Sheriff's dispatch and asked that they broadcast an attempt to locate (ATL), the vehicles. Since both vehicles were registered out of Gunnison, I

called the Gunnison officer to stop at the hunters' residence and see if they were home. Then Mike called about 1730 hours from his residence. We drove to Gunnison and interviewed Mike and other family members. In the course of the interview, Mike told us that his brother, Joe, commented that he ought to turn himself in after Mr. Rose and I left the camp. Instead, he got in his car and took off. Officer Bradley and I spent the rest of the day trying to locate Joe and his car.

On Friday, Officer Bradley, Sheriff Deputy Kirkham, and I drove back to the camp. No one had returned during the night. We found where the two Blue Grouse had been cleaned and the carcasses that went with the deer heads. We took photographs, collected evidence and headed to the County Attorney's office to put together a search warrant for the car if we located it. I was near Ephraim when Joe called me. He said that it wasn't right we were harassing his dad and to leave his family alone. I told Joe that we needed to talk and asked where he was. He stated that he was at the Sinclair in Fairview. I told him to wait there and that I would be there as soon as possible. I contacted Officer Bradley and told him Joe had just called. We both turned around and headed to Fairview.

When we met Joe in Fairview he confronted me about why I was telling other officers to be careful and that he was crazy and might shoot someone. I started talking about what had taken place on Thursday and the discussion became heated. I asked where his car was and Joe told me that two "buds" he partied with stole the car along with his rifle. I also mentioned that I had told Joe not to drive and he became very defensive. He asked over and over if I saw him driving drunk and to try to prove it. Joe asked if I was going to arrest him for DUI. I told him "no." I was arresting him for wanton destruction of protected wildlife. He turned around and said "Cuff me then." When I handcuffed Joe he commented, "I didn't think you would really handcuff me."

Joe was transported and booked into Sanpete County jail. After writing the probable cause statement I headed towards Aspen Hills to look again for Joe's car. I had been gone about ten



minutes when the Jailer called saying Joe wanted to “talk.” According to the Jailer, Joe was willing to “give me what I wanted for a six pack and smokes.” I turned around and drove back to the jail to meet Joe.

Joe told me that I wouldn’t have found him if he hadn’t turned himself in. He again claimed his car was stolen and felt that it was okay to shoot the deer because someone was eating the meat. Joe finally said, “You got me” and admitted to shooting the bucks Wednesday night. Joe told me that he shot the 23 ½” three-point buck first and the second buck wouldn’t leave. He shot the second buck because he felt it was going to attack him. Joe finally told me where he parked his car. It was north of Fairview along the Sanpitch River. I asked if the rifle was still in the car and Joe told me he threw it in the river. As I finished the interview Joe told me that he called because during the booking process he saw Reba McEntire on television and knew “she wouldn’t do anything like this.” Thank you Reba.

I met Officer Bradley in Fairview and found the car where Joe said it would be located. The first thing we noticed was a gunshot through the roof of the vehicle. It appeared that Joe forgot the barrel of the rifle was lower than the scope and shot his car. While waiting for the wrecker to arrive, we looked along the Sanpitch River for the rifle. I wasn’t surprised that it wasn’t located.

At the impound yard we executed the search warrant. It really wasn’t Joe’s day because we found marijuana and paraphernalia as well as the blood and deer hair I expected to find.



Michael Roach
Salt Lake

2003 was made up of help stop poaching calls, urban hunting and fishing problems and nuisance animals. Each one of these areas took about a third of my time.

The spring was spent following up on HSP calls and contacting fishermen on the urban ponds and collecting injured or dead animals. Most of the problems occurred around the urban pond in Murray, Willow pond. With the attention the ponds were getting, I wrote an Action Plan for the urban ponds in Salt Lake County. This action plan required a large portion of my time during the spring and summer months. This action plan generated 57 citations and warnings and 11 cases. From these stats we will be running the action plan in 2004.

When I wasn’t working the urban ponds I was either collecting dead or injured deer or fetching rattlesnakes out of back yards. During the summer months I collected and released approximately two-dozen rattlesnakes. I also had the opportunity to work Strawberry Reservoir. These assignments were a great distraction from the Salt Lake County duties.

The fall hunting season was spent on assignments and working hunters along the Wasatch front archery areas. We did not see as many problems this year, but the ones we had got a lot of my attention. With the new regulations on the extended archery hunts, it was surprising to see that most hunters were in compliance with these regulations.

During the year I helped teach 15 hunter education classes, loaded an average 25 roadkill deer in my truck per month with a yearly total of about 300 animals. My back is in pretty good shape, but the back of my truck will never be the same.



Brad Probst
Provo River

The Heber/Provo River district includes a large portion of Wasatch County and the Provo River corridor, and 2003 was a very busy year in all aspects.



Construction continues on the Provo River between Jordanelle Dam and Deer Creek Reservoir where the Provo River Restoration Project people are changing, enhancing and restoring the river. The project is scheduled to be complete in two more years. This section of river has become a world-class fly-fishing water.

Development in the Heber Valley combined with extra snow this year has created ongoing conflicts between man and beast. Deer, elk, and turkeys have been pushed down into area farms and yards looking for a place to stay and things to eat. A considerable amount of depredation has occurred, it has been a constant struggle for the division to mitigate this problem.

Several big game cases were made on crimes committed in the Heber/Wasatch area this year. Although poaching seems to be a continual problem, it is encouraging that an ever-increasing number of people are coming forth with information leading to arrests.

The Heber Valley is a wonderful place to work and live. May the mountains stand tall, the waters run clear, and the sun continue to shine.

Jerry Schlappi **Tooele**

The Tooele district was busy as usual. Cases involving everything from fish to elk were investigated.

Some memorable cases involving reports of a violation by concerned citizens included a mountain lion that was illegally taken in a wrong area. Concerned citizens became suspicious as they drove by and saw a suspect trying to conceal himself behind a tree while dragging a mountain lion off of the mountain. They took the time to call the authorities, and cared enough that they would testify in court to what they had seen if needed. They ended up not needing to, as the suspect was identified and ultimately confessed to his crime.

Another case involving a concerned citizen involved an antelope that had been poached near Desert Mountain. A call came in stating that an unusual odor was coming from a car parked in the neighborhood. When I responded, I located a buck antelope head in the rear seat. When the owner of the vehicle was contacted, an arrest was made. Thanks again to all of the citizens that take the time to call on suspicious activities that they encounter while in the outdoors or even in their own neighborhood.

Some of the most fun times and cases made in the Tooele District came about by being in the backcountry on horseback. Arrests were made on such violations as allowing bull elk and buck deer to waste, hunting deer without licenses, and failing to tag deer. It is always fun to be in the same canyon as people who are trying to get around the law. Thank goodness for our four legged friends to get us in the right place at the right time.



Scott White
Sergeant

In 2003 the north crew, Tooele, Salt Lake and Wasatch County's of the Central Region had several changes. Officer Becker transferred to the Northern Region Officer Davis transferred to the south crew. Officer Jerry Schlappi was promoted to an Investigator and Officer Troy Hammond replaced him in the Tooele District. As the Sergeant, I assist my officer's when they need help on investigations, extra personnel for patrols and I get to facilitate many administrative duties. The north crew did an excellent job this past year conducting and prosecuting numerous big game violations. I continued the "Officer of The Month" program and am proud that many of the north crew officers received the award.

I was in charge of the Lake Creek Administrative Checkpoint during the deer hunt and my officer's made several excellent big cases, which included an individual who shot two deer illegally and



tagged them with other people's tags, and a case involving a person who poached a doe deer.

During the checkpoint officers assisted in collecting many CWD samples. I have an excellent crew working for me and look forward to working beside them in 2004.



Shawn Bagley
South Utah County

The urbanization of the valley continues, hence the public demand for service has also expanded. The effect, I have been spending more time responding to calls from HSP reports to nuisance complainants. Additionally, the year has brought in new crewmembers. The officers are exceptional help. Between calls and paperwork, I have been involved in several investigations.

Outside the job, the most mentionable highlight is the addition of a new family member.



Justin Shirley
East Juab

The year started with me in Salt Lake waiting to be assigned to the field. The training was good, but I have eaten enough Mexican food for a lifetime. I finally found out that I would be moving to the Juab county district starting in March. I was very excited - my old duck hunting stomping grounds. As soon as I thought about hunting ducks in Juab, I remembered a time getting checked by a fish cop at Mona Reservoir when I didn't have my license (on my person, of course). That warden was Howard Jacquart. Then I realized that he was the Lieutenant in the Central Region. I suddenly got a little bit nervous. Then I thought about Kevin Cherry as my Sergeant and I got really nervous.

It wasn't long before I drove Kevin into retirement and Howard decided that he was going to need more one-on-one time with me so he became the sergeant. They have both been a great help.

I spent my first year in a lot of places. I have had many assignments that have all been great. I have been to Bullfrog, Ogden Bay, Strawberry, Hardware Ranch, Clear Lake, and St. George. During those trips I got to meet and work with many officers.

This year in my district the big game hunts kept me very busy. For the first time, Juab County (west of I-15) was made into an "any bull elk unit" and really brought out the hunters. That hunt started with the archery hunters in August and didn't really end until the end of the year with the extended archery hunt. I was happy to see it come to a close. Many good buck deer made it through the hunts and have been very popular since moving down for the winter.

Mona Reservoir was not only good to me, but also many other duck hunters this fall. Living in Mona provides quick access to the reservoir when the conditions are right.

This year was very busy but was really fun. I learned in many circumstances to expect the unexpected.



Howard Jacquart
Sergeant

Beginning January 2003 I assisted with the development of an Action Plan that dealt with the enforcement of new fishing regulations at Strawberry Reservoir. This action plan was a joint effort amongst CRO law enforcement personnel. On January 1, new regulations at Strawberry required all cutthroat trout between 15" and 22" to be released. This created quite a challenge. This action plan provided for increased winter patrols and summer saturation patrols. All CRO officers were assigned to the lake the same day in an attempt to contact



everyone on the reservoir. We used all three CRO LE boats and officers were assigned to each of the reservoir's four boat ramps and two roadblocks throughout the summer months. All CRO law enforcement officers participated in these activities. The success of the action plan was outstanding and all officers should be commended on a great job.

In July I returned to the field as a Sergeant for the south crew in the Central Region. Since that time I have been able to spend some time in the field when I can break away from ULEIN and other associated paperwork that seems to eat up much of my time.

During the fall hunts officers from the south crew were involved in making some outstanding wanton destruction cases.

Officers Matt Briggs and Brad Bradley arrested a Sanpete County resident that began the deer season by killing two-buck deer a week prior to the rifle deer season.

Officer Vic Layton and I made an arrest on an individual that killed a five point bull elk on the opening day of the rifle deer hunt – he said he thought it was a buck deer when he shot at it.

Officer Layton also made an outstanding bear case during the spring bear hunt.

Officers Joe Abbott and Jack Topham made an arrest on an individual that killed a trophy mule deer buck the night before Thanksgiving - they both spent their holiday chasing down this suspect.

Officer Paul Davis made several big game wanton destruction arrests at Strawberry during the deer and elk hunts. He also spent a large amount of his time dealing with the new regulations at Strawberry.

Officers Bagley and Shirley worked on many good cases during the fall that are pending prosecution.

These are just a few of the cases that the officers from the south crew worked on. Overall, the

crew did an excellent job during the year and should be commended for their efforts.

Investigations into other cases are still in progress as we prepare for another year and all the challenges it presents.



Brad Bradley
South Sanpete

It has been a rather interesting year not for me, but for other officers. My district hasn't been a real hotbed of activity this year - however, surrounding districts have been really cooking. So it has made this year "The Year Of The Assist" for me.

Officer Fred Pannunzio started the year off with a huge deer case involving a bandit from my area, Gunnison. The case involved at least eight deer we could confirm. In helping Fred I was able to employ some technology from my video hobby to enhance the presentation of the evidence for court. Using digital cameras with high mega-pixel ratings and macro lenses that allowed the camera to work within less than an inch of the pieces of evidence, like a retrieved slug, we were able to give some pretty incriminating pictures to the prosecuting and defending attorneys.

On October, I assisted Officer Matt Briggs on a case where a suspect decided to start the deer hunt a bit early and with a few too many deer. Again the camera came into play by taking close-up pictures that yield visual evidence of the time of kill. We used a new technology, well... not so new, but becoming affordable, to record statements and confessions in this case; digital voice recorders. Since there are no motors, wheels or tape to deal with the recordings are very clear. The digital recording is transferred to the computer and burned to an audio CD and is playable on a computer or any commercial audio CD player. The nice part is the audio can be cut-to-track. In other words, when you want to listen to what a specific individual said, you just play



that track like any other CD. No rewinding and searching trying to find what you wanted like with tape. Even crucial statements can be chaptered so you can go right to where your suspects say something important.

Of course, the defense guys are just starting to catch on to this digital age. So if you have enjoyed the freedom that digital has given us for the last couple of years beware. Attorneys are starting to catch on to the great potential that digital data can hold. Not only for enhancing what we see and hear, but also, in the hands of someone unscrupulous or irresponsible how it can be used to make something what it really isn't. So, if you use digital evidence gathering remember to always keep an original copy of your data. That original picture that you just took

with your digital camera contains a file called metadata. It contains all kinds of information about the picture; from the time and date to the brand of camera and F-stop you used. It will save your evidence from being thrown out. Once you start to edit, crop or enlarge your picture, that data can, and probably will, be lost when your software saves the picture back to disk. Original digital voice recording should have one solid, unedited voice stream for verification if necessary. Chop up a copy for the highlights.

Digital has opened up a new frontier in evidence gathering. Just one more thing that makes it fun to be a modern day fishcop.

Northeastern Region

Lieutenant Clair Davis
Investigator: Ted Gardiner

Sergeant Neil Bingham
Conservation Officers
Chad Bettridge
Jack Lytle
Terry Smith
Garrett Whatcott – Military



Gross Overlimit Of Blue Gills At Pelican Lake

In 2004, a DWR officer in the NER observed two individuals fishing at Pelican Lake. This officer checked the two fishermen and found these two people were in violation of multiple wildlife laws. The most apparent was that the individuals were extremely over their possession limit of blue gill fish. The couple had been very successful in their angling skills that day and had caught and kept 61 blue gill. The legal limit on Pelican Lake was 10 blue gill per licensed angler. This put the two individuals over their legal possession limit by 41 fish! When asked if they knew what the limit on blue gills was at Pelican Lake, the anglers replied "isn't it 50, like perch". Unfortunately for them the limit was not even close to 50. This was a valuable and costly lesson



to the anglers showing how important it is to read the proclamation which explains the specific rules and regulations for fishing.



Chad Bettridge
Roosevelt

The East Duchesne County district has been a great place to work for the past three years.

This past year I have investigated wanton destruction cases involving waterfowl, upland game, fish and big game.

Two memorable cases involve trophy deer.

The first case concerned a hunter on the extended archery hunt. He encountered a large 4x4 buck deer when he made the fateful decision to shoot the deer with his .243 rifle. A nearby hunter who had been stalking the same deer was upset when the perpetrator admitted to shooting the deer with his rifle. The witness called the Help Stop Poaching hotline. The hunter was convicted of felony wanton destruction of protected wildlife.

After all the hunting seasons had concluded, a suspect allegedly shot a 4x4 deer in the field next to his home. He then showed the antlers to a neighbor who told his brother in Heber about the incident. Word eventually reached Officer Brad Probst who passed the information on to me. I obtained a search warrant for the suspect's house. The suspect cooperated by showing me where he hid the antlers and the carcass, as well as giving me the gun he killed the deer with. He is charged with felony wanton destruction. Court actions are pending in this case.



Jack Lytle
Clay Basin

I've worked for the division since November 1985. I was

hired as the Roosevelt District conservation officer and held that position for nearly nine years before accepting a position as Regional Habitat Project Leader in Vernal for four years. I accepted the Regional Habitat Program Manager position and held that position for 3 years. I have been the district conservation officer in Dutch John since February 2002.

This district encompasses the very northeast corner of Utah, which includes Flaming Gorge, the Green River and the Brown's Park area. This district is predominately made up of publicly administered lands (BLM and USFS).

During the spring and summer most of my time is spent either on the Green River or Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Both of these waters receive a great deal of fishing pressure and provide world-class opportunities for the angling public. My time during the fall and early winter months, as expected, is focused on the big game (elk, mule deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, moose, and antelope), upland game, and waterfowl seasons. During winter months trapping and cougar hunting are the most prevalent draws on my time.



Terry Smith
East Vernal District

This past year has been one of the busiest investigative years in my career. The public has taken the need for their involvement very seriously. The calls to the office have increased to the point of overwhelming. I guess that means job security? The challenge of the complex investigations keeps things interesting. There are lots of good cases. If there is an interest, ULEIN is the place to read about it. Make time for family and fishing more often as things slow down...you won't regret it.





MILITARY SERVICE

Mark Bearnson **Assistant Hunter** **Education Coordinator**

Hello everyone. I can't believe that I've been gone for more than a year now. It seems like forever. You have probably heard by now that the orders are official and we'll be staying here until the end of March 2005.



Our mission here at Ft Dix, NJ, is to prepare soldiers mobilized for overseas duty and to qualify with and safely use their assigned weapons. We provide a four-hour block of instruction for each weapon system they are assigned. We train troops on ten different weapon systems; everything from the M-9 Pistol to Anti-Tank weapons, as well as the MK-19 Grenade Machine Gun (an awesome piece of firepower). This is an interactive "hands-on" training that is instructor intensive. The hours are crushing and we usually have too much to do.

As an example, my team of 11 guys processed more than 13,000 troops through our facility in the months of January and February. Twelve-hour workdays were rare and a luxury.

My guys work very hard and have done an outstanding job of training the troops. We have had many visits to our work area by people from throughout the Army and Washington, DC.

The Army is really hot on "Every Soldier a Rifleman" and are looking at various training methods to help make that happen.

Though Susan lives just over 70 miles away, we don't see each other too often. Maybe things will slow down to help that situation, but who knows.

I know there have been many challenges since I have left, and my thoughts are with you and everyone back home.

Garrett Whatcott **Manila District**

I had just 9 months in the Manila district when on February 5th 2003 I was called to active duty with the 1457th combat engineer battalion. I spent two months in Ft. Lewis, Washington, training on some common soldiers' tasks. On April 29th 2003 our Battalion, of about 475 strong, flew to Kuwait. We waited in Kuwait for our equipment to come to port for about a month and on May 28th we headed north to Baghdad.



I was in a heavy equipment section that had bulldozers, graders, loaders, cranes and tractor-trailers. As a crew we did a lot of clean up for the local nationals in the area of Baghdad. We cleaned up trash pits and made soccer fields for the local kids. We helped other Army bases throughout Baghdad become more protected from mortar attacks and rocket fire.

I spent 11 months in Baghdad and on April 3rd we got our movement orders to head back to Kuwait. We got all of our equipment ready to go and demobilize back to Utah. They held us there because of the extension on all troops. The Generals evaluated the situation and the decision was made that we were no longer needed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and we were told that we could come home. On May 5th I finally stepped foot in Utah for the first time in about 500 days.

I'm now back to work as a Conservation Officer in the Manila district. I'm glad to be back to work and am looking forward to the challenging work lies ahead. I would like to thank everyone that helped me and my family and to everyone that prayed for the troops.



IN MEMORY OF JON “KIP” DRAPER

Conservation Officer Kip Draper passed away from natural causes on January 25, 2004, while checking for trapping regulation compliance in Straight Canyon, Emery County. Officer Draper was fulfilling his lifetime dream of working as a wildlife conservation officer.



Jon (Kip) Draper
Conservation Officer
Emery County

I've been the Emery District Officer for two years and have enjoyed every minute.

As the Emery District Officer, I am responsible for the law enforcement activities for approximately 4,000 square miles. Most of this area is in Emery County, with smaller areas in Sanpete and Sevier Counties. Included in my district are portions of the Manti-Lasal National Forest-- which produced the state record typical bull elk at slightly over 400 points—and the San Rafael Swell and Reef. My district is home to many species of big game, good trout fisheries, including one blue ribbon stream.

The year started off with a bang, a day early, another dead deer. On New Year's Eve 2002, I received a call that a deer had just been shot by a subject whom I had been investigating for the past several months for poaching. With help from two local residents, this subject was charged with two counts of Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife (deer). The subject ultimately plead guilty to one of the counts and paid restitution for two deer to the Help Stop Poaching Fund. I investigated 23 other cases this year, several involving mature bulls shot on the Central Mountains, Manti unit during the general (spike only) elk hunt.

SAYING GOOD BYE TO ONE OF OUR OWN

